

10M KIDS MAY NEVER RETURN TO SCHOOL
Warns Save the Children
SEE PAGE 12

The Daily Star



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ADB-FUNDED DEV IN BANGLADESH

40 projects hit by pandemic

Contract awarding, fund disbursements come down significantly

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The coronavirus pandemic has slowed down the implementation of at least 40 of the 49 projects funded by the Asian Development Bank.

Initial estimate shows that awarding of contracts may fall by 20 percent this year and disbursement of funds by 30 percent if no special measures are taken.

In six months till June 30, the achievement in awarding contracts was only 13.87 percent and that in disbursing funds 21.41 percent of the targets, show ADB documents.

"Given the Covid-19, special measures will be needed to speed up the project implementation as lockdown has seriously impacted the project progress," read the documents.

Against such a backdrop, the Tripartite Portfolio Review Meeting (TPRM) for the ADB-funded projects will be held in Dhaka tomorrow. This is the first such meeting this year.

The TPRM will be co-chaired by the secretary of the Economic Relations Division and the country director of the ADB's Bangladesh Resident Mission.

Representatives of the implementing agencies for all the projects will take part in the virtual meeting.

- ▶ Bangladesh's current active portfolio with ADB \$10.81b
- ▶ Number of projects 49, most of them delayed by months
- ▶ Disbursement only 13.87pc in six months



Even in the face of adversity, two women are all smiles as they wade through over knee-deep water in inundated Nabinagar area of Sunamganj yesterday. Non-stop rain coupled with onrush of water from upstream flooded the area a few days ago. *Inset*, two children on a raft in a flooded area of Lalmonirhat's Jagatber village, which is adjacent to the Teesta river.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR/S DILIP ROY

WATCH OUT!

INNOVATION prevails in times of crisis. We invite you to join the journey of our innovation! Bangla or English - read our news your way.

Find tomorrow how **The Daily Star** is reinventing itself for you!

BANGLADESH UPDATE	3,099 New cases in 24hrs	1,86,894 Total cases	2,391 Deaths	98,317 Recoveries	GLOBAL UPDATE	573,179 Deaths	13,127,189 Total cases
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Shahid 'bribed 2 Kuwaiti MPs Tk 20cr': report

Kuwaiti prosecution tells national assembly

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh MP Shahid Islam Papul gave 720,000 dinars (about Tk 20 crore) to two members of Kuwait's National Assembly as bribes to facilitate foreign workers' recruitment and financial transactions, according to Kuwait's Public Prosecution.

It revealed the information in a report to Kuwait's National Assembly after Papul confessed during interrogation, reported Arab Times on Sunday.

According to the Public Prosecution's memorandum, Shahid revealed that he gave MP Saadoun Hammad about 200,000 dinars, including 50,000 dinars at his residence in South Surra region, and 150,000 dinars in cheques through a Syrian national mediator, who is the deputy manager of a company.

The target of the bribes was to facilitate his transactions and complete his commercial procedures in Kuwait.

Papul further gave 370,000 dinars in cash to MP Salah Khorshid at his residence in instalments, in exchange for bringing in Bangladeshi workers, and excluding him from obtaining their job approvals from

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DGHS-MINISTRY RIFT OVER REGENT

It'll frustrate virus efforts

WASIM BIN HABIB and MOUJID AHMED SUJAN

The rift between the health ministry and the health directorate over the Regent Hospital scam will seriously hurt the government efforts to contain the Covid-19 outbreak, say experts.

The buck-passing not only demonstrates a lack of coordination between the government bodies but also exposes the shady links and corruption in the health care sector.

The government must take action against the people involved and ensure that the agencies engaged in Covid-19 response work in coordination, they added.

"This [the government deal with Regent] was the work of a team. There must be no blame game. This proves the lack of seriousness in the director general and the minister," said Rashid E Mahub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

"It is the duty of the DG to point out illogical directives from the minister and the minister should also consider that. Negligence is evident on both of their parts," he told The Daily Star.

"Be it corruption or misjudgement, this has to be dug out. But for now, it is more important to work together to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic."

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) signed a memorandum of understanding with Regent in March, turning it into a dedicated Covid-19 hospital, in a ceremony attended by Health Minister Zahid Maleque and many high officials.

The DGHS was aware that the hospital's licence had expired six years ago.

On July 7, a Rab mobile court raided Regent Hospital's Uttara branch and sealed it off on charges of issuing fake Covid-19 test certificates and asking money from coronavirus patients illegally.

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Two arrest warrants for Shahed

Gets sued in Ctg too for embezzlement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued two arrest warrants against Regent Group Chairman Shahed Karim in connection with two cases filed over embezzling Tk 3.68 crore of a businessman.

Shahed, AKA Mohammad Shahed, went into hiding after a mobile court of Rab on July 7 sealed off Regent Hospital in the capital's Uttara in connection with issuing several thousand fake Covid-19 test reports.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Moinul Islam yesterday passed the order after Saifullah Masud, proprietor of M/S Masud Enterprise in Karwanbazar, lodged the cases with the court.

The magistrate directed the officer-in-charge of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Sabrina washes her hands of JKG

Evidence against her pile up; placed on a 3-day remand

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Since JKG Health Care's alleged involvement in the fake Covid-19 test report scam surfaced late last month, Dr Sabrina Arif Chaudhury has been claiming that she was never the organisation's chairman.

She also refuted her links with any forgery.

Also in court yesterday, Sabrina, a suspended registrar (cardiac surgery) at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), denied holding the post of chairman at any private organisation, said court sources.

Some documents, website of an event management firm connected to JKG Health Care, and Sabrina's LinkedIn profile, however, mention her as the chairman of Oval Group, which was established in 2008.

In its official documents, Oval Group says its sister concerns are JKG Health Care, Dhaka Expo, Oval ad, Vital Security Services (VSS) Limited, Oval IT, A&M Fashion, Booking BD, Moment, and ROW-DY.

Dhaka Expo's website still shows Sabrina as the chairman of the group. The firm's Facebook page also has photos where she is seen participating in its programmes.

Besides, Sabrina gave interviews to the media as a spokesperson for JKG after some of its staffers were allegedly assaulted at Titumir College on June 2, said investigators.

The investigators also said, lobbying the government high-ups, Sabrina managed to get JKG the job of collecting Covid-19 test samples after showing it a non-profit

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Jamuna Group chairman Nurul Islam passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurul Islam, chairman of Jamuna Group, one of the biggest conglomerates in the country, died of Covid-19 at a city hospital yesterday.

He was 74.

A freedom fighter, Nurul Islam, popularly known as Nurul Islam Babul, passed away at Evercare Hospital (formerly known as Apollo Hospital) at 3:40pm, Mohammad Alamgir Alam, a director of Jamuna Group, told this correspondent.

He was also suffering from kidney damage, said Alam.

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No one can leave station during Eid holidays

Says cabinet secretary at a press briefing

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided not to extend the three-day Eid holiday and also not to allow the government employees to leave their workplaces amid the Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

"The three-day Eid holiday will not be extended further and no one can leave their respective workplaces or headquarters during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha," Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said at a press briefing after a cabinet meeting yesterday.

He said this replying to a question if there was any directive regarding the novel coronavirus.

The cabinet meeting was held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. She joined the meeting through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhaban, while other cabinet members were connected from the Bangladesh Secretariat.

NATIONAL HISTORIC DAY

The cabinet approved a proposal for declaring March 7 as the "National Historic Day" in a bid to observe the day nationally, commemorating the historic March 7 Speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"The cabinet approved a proposal

placed by the cultural affairs ministry to declare March 7 as the National Historic Day and include it in the 'Ka' Serial [list] of the gazette notification concerned," said the cabinet secretary.

Following a writ petition, the High Court had earlier issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to declare March 7 as the National Historic Day, Anwarul said.

He said the Unesco included Bangabandhu's March 7 speech in the Memory of the World Register.

MEDICAL VERSITY IN KHULNA

The cabinet in principle approved the draft of Sheikh Hasina Medical University, Khulna Bill, 2020 for setting up a medical university in Khulna division, aiming to expand the facilities of medical education, research and healthcare services in the region.

"The bill has been designed in line with the laws of Rajshahi, Chattogram and Sylhet medical universities.... Actually, it is almost a prototype of other medical universities [of the country]," said the cabinet secretary.

Besides, the cabinet endorsed the draft of a proposed agreement for establishment of diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and Palau, an archipelago in the Western Pacific Ocean.

Two arrest warrants

FROM PAGE 1

Uttara Paschim Police Station to submit by August 13 the report on execution of arrest warrants.

In the first case, Saifullah told the court that Shahed bought iron rods and cement from his shop worth Tk 1 crore between January 18 and March 24 in 2018.

Against the dues, Shahed issued four cheques to Saifullah but told him not to cash those without his permission.

On June 25 this year, Saifullah requested Shahed to pay his dues. But Shahed threatened him with dire consequences if he demanded the money.

In the second case, the plaintiff said he supplied iron rods and cement worth Tk 2.68 crore to Shahed between 2018 and March this year.

When Saifullah asked for the money over phone on July 8, Shahed refused to pay.

He lodged a general diary with Uttara Paschim Police Station on the same day.

On June 3 this year, Saifullah complained to the home ministry in this regard.

In another development, a case was filed against Shahed with Double Mooring Police Station in Chattogram over embezzlement of Tk 91.25 lakh from a business house.

Jamuna Group chairman

FROM PAGE 1

One of the prominent industrialists of the country, Nurul left behind his wife Salma Islam, a Jatiya Party MP, one son, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Nurul Islam, also the founding chairman of Daily Jugantor and Jamuna Television, had been undergoing treatment at the hospital since June 14.

A ten-member medical board was formed for his treatment at the hospital. Besides, four specialist doctors from China and two specialist doctors from Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital had given advice through teleconference to treat him.

He will be buried at the Banani graveyard today after a namaz-e-jezana at the Jamuna Future Park mosque after Johr prayer.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, top leaders of different political parties, socio and business organisations, ministers including Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, among others, expressed deep shock at the death of Jamuna Group chairman.

In separate condolence messages, they said an entrepreneur like him was much needed to build a modern Bangladesh. His departure is an irreparable loss for the country.

The Newspapers Owners' Association of Bangladesh, of which Nurul Islam was a founding member, also expressed sorrow.

Nurul Islam's Son Shamim Islam is the managing director of Jamuna Group, his three daughters -- Rosalim Islam, Monica Islam and Sonia Islam

are directors of Jamuna Group.

Nurul Islam took the initiative to build an international standard hospital in the capital to treat Covid-19. He had already finished the initial discussion in this regard.

Nurul Islam established Jamuna in the arena of private industrial sector in 1974.

Its journey began with the Jamuna Electric Manufacturing Co. Ltd, which pioneered the manufacturing electrical accessories and fittings in Bangladesh since 1975. There after JGI flourished as a giant conglomerate.

Jamuna developed and expanded its enterprises to diversify its product range.

In the course of 34 years of operation, Jamuna Group expanded into a dynasty of 24 large scale enterprises.

"Jamuna Group has been a big contribution towards the national exchequer in the form of taxes and by generating employment opportunities for a huge number of unemployed work forces. More than one lakh people work under different ventures of Jamuna Group," Mohammad Alamgir Alam told this correspondent.

From textile to real estate, Jamuna Group has diverse business interests in 38 sectors.

It has ventured into electrical, engineering, chemical, leather, garments and textiles -- including spinning, knitting and dyeing, and cosmetics, toiletries, beverages, real estate, housing, print and electronic media sectors.

Jamuna Group is also involved real estate development and one of the biggest projects it had undertaken was "The Future Park."

Shahid bribed 2 Kuwaiti MPs

FROM PAGE 1

Kuwait's immigration.

Kuwait's National Assembly has lifted immunity for interrogation of the two MPs in connection to Papul's case. Some officials were also detained for being involved in the alleged crimes.

Papul, managing director and CEO of Marafie Kuwaitia Group, is accused of human trafficking, money laundering, bribes and visa trading. He recruited 20,000 foreign workers, mostly Bangladeshis, in exchange for Tk 700,000 to Tk 900,000, but did not provide jobs and wages as per the contracts. His company is also accused of charging for annual work permit renewal.

Shahid, from Laxmipur-2, and his wife Selina Islam became MPs in the 2018 election allegedly through the power of illicit money from Laxmipur-2 constituency.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi ambassador to Kuwait, SM Abul

Kalam's role has been questioned as Papul continued to commit such crimes for years. The ambassador in a letter to the foreign ministry in Dhaka gave a clean image of Papul, after the Kuwaiti media ran reports of his criminal activities.

Against this backdrop, the government of Bangladesh has decided to appoint Maj Gen Md Ashikuzzaman as the new ambassador to Kuwait.

Ashikuzzaman, who was commissioned in Bangladesh Army in 1988, had been serving in Instructional, Staff and Command appointments at various levels during his military service.

He also served in three UN Peace Support Missions in Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and DR Congo. Right before his appointment as the ambassador, he served as Senior Directing Staff (Army) at the National Defence College, Bangladesh.



Some nurses of Dhaka Medical College Hospital wait to board microbuses outside the hospital to go to a hotel designated for them. These health workers have been staying in hotels since the coronavirus outbreak in the country, so that their family members don't contract the virus from them. Many of them tested Covid-19 positive and return to work following recovery.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

40 projects hit by pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

They will assess the impact of Covid-19 on project implementation, review key implementation issues that may affect progress, prioritise actions to meet the targets, and also discuss approval of proposed projects.

As of June 30 this year, Bangladesh's active portfolio with the ADB stands at \$10.81 billion in the form of loans or grants for 49 projects in six sectors. The amount includes \$742 million in loan for the projects approved this year.

Of the projects, 12 are in the transport sector; nine in education and health; eight in energy; eight in water, urban infrastructure and services; seven in agriculture, natural resources and rural development; and five in the finance sector.

The projects in transport and energy sectors account for 55 percent of the portfolio value.

IMPACT OF COVID, WAY FORWARD According to the ADB, Bangladesh was performing well till March when Covid-19 started affecting the implementation of the projects.

To contain the spread of the virus and ensure safety of workers and employees, the majority of the construction sites were closed following the shutdown, it said.

Since then, contracts under several packages could not be awarded and also funds could not be disbursed, seriously impacting the project implementation, the ADB mentioned in the documents.

The government imposed the shutdown in late March to contain the spread of the virus. It, however, lifted the restrictions on May 31 as the

shutdown started to affect the economy and people's livelihoods.

Though a number of the project sites have reopened, work is going on there on a limited scale.

The Roads and Highways Department is implementing several ADB-funded projects, including Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport and SASEC Road Connectivity Project-1 and 2.

Under the urban transport project, a dedicated bus line or Bus Rapid Transit is being built from Dhaka Airport to Gazipur, while the two-lane road from Gazipur to Rangpur is being upgraded to four lanes under the road connectivity projects.

"The implementation of our projects has been hampered by the pandemic as work of those projects was suspended for more than two months since late March," RHD Chief Engineer Quazi Shahriar Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We have resumed work but still cannot work in full swing as many foreign experts are yet to return," he said.

Replying to another question, Shahriar said, "The pandemic will affect every project, and we have to extend the deadline by at least three months. We have already got such indications from the project officials."

SASEC Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Railway Project is another major project funded by the ADB.

Under the project, a single-line dual-gauge railway track will be built from Dohazari in Chattogram to Cox's Bazar via Ramu.

It'll frustrate virus efforts

FROM PAGE 1

Amid widespread criticism, the DGHS on Saturday said it was the higher authorities at the health ministry who asked the directorate to sign the MoU.

Enraged, the ministry issued a show-cause notice to the director general of the DGHS to explain in three work days what his office meant by "directed by higher authorities".

Officials said the rift made the situation complicated for both parties.

They said the health directorate is working on its explanation, they said.

"Preparing the answer is underway. It will be submitted within the deadline," DGHS spokesperson Ayesha Akhter told The Daily Star yesterday.

Director General Prof Abul Kalam Azad did not answer the phone calls made by this newspaper for the second consecutive day yesterday.

Visiting a hospital in Narayanganj, Abdul Mannan, secretary of the health service division, told reporters, "A picture of rampant corruption in the health sector is coming out. You have seen that we took action against Regent Hospital and JKG Health Care. The DG of the health directorate has been issued a show-cause letter."

Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19, said, "We are already in a standoff. Neither the DGHS nor the ministry appears to be functional now. People

The authorities of the fast-track project had a plan to complete 50 percent of the physical work within fiscal 2019-20, but it was 40 percent as work remained suspended for two months due to the pandemic.

The physical work of the project came to a near halt after March. Though, most of the workers have returned to the project site, rain is hampering work, said a project official, seeking anonymity.

Things are almost the same for the other projects.

The ADB said the implementing agencies are now planning to reopen construction sites and camps as the government lifted the shutdown.

As part of the TPRM preparations, sector-wise discussions were held between the implementing agencies from June 29 to July 5.

"All ongoing and upcoming procurement packages were reviewed, and initial agreement was reached on package-wise contract awards and disbursement that are likely to happen in 2020," it mentioned.

ADB GUIDELINES

The ADB's Bangladesh Resident Mission has prepared guidelines on health safety for the implementing agencies, contractors and consultants amid the pandemic.

This will supplement the existing environmental management plan (EMP) and occupational health and safety guidelines.

The contractors are required to maintain a comprehensive and site-specific health safety protocol in project activities and ensure safe distancing of the workers, it noted.

are not getting treatment at the hospitals. What a situation!"

"Is it possible for only the minister or the DG to approve such a deal? There are many people involved. It is also not the only issue with the health sector, there are many others," he said.

"When the whole system is polluted, the removal of the DG or the minister will not make much difference. We heard about many incidents of corruption in recent months, but did not see any steps taken."

Prof Nazrul, also former vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Medical University, suggested that there should be a commission to look into the allegations of anomalies in the health sector over the years.

Sabrina washes her hands of JKG

FROM PAGE 1

organisation. Sabrina's influence also brought the firm several government contracts, including those of the health ministry, said the investigators.

All was apparently going well until her relationship with her husband, Ariful Chaudhury, chief executive officer of Oval Group, turned sour lately, they said.

On June 8, Sabrina filed a general diary with the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Police Station, alleging that Ariful assaulted her at her workplace NICVD.

Five days later, an official order issued by Oval Group and signed by Ariful said Sabrina and three others were no longer a part of the group.

When police asked how a CEO could terminate the chairman of a company, Ariful said the decision was made for violating company rules, including collecting Covid-19 test samples from people's homes, said one of the investigators.

Mahmud Khan, assistant commissioner of DMP (Tejgaon zone), told The Daily Star that they were investigating Sabrina's role in Oval Group and sought relevant information from the company.

"We talked to their employees. All said she was the chairman of Oval Group," the police official said.

Meanwhile, Sabrina was placed on a three-day remand yesterday in connection with a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 test reports.

She was arrested on Sunday, about



three weeks after the scam came to light. Police said as she is the chairman of JKG, she cannot avoid "the responsibility".

Before being arrested, Sabrina told the media and the police that she no longer had any ties to JKG. Besides, she sent a divorce letter to her husband, she said.

The same day, the health ministry suspended Sabrina from the post of registrar at NICVD. According to the ministry's order, she was suspended for professional misconduct -- holding the post of chairman of a private organisation while in public service -- and also corruption allegations.

The scam surfaced on June 23 after Tejgaon Police arrested Humaun Kabir Hemu, chief visualiser at Oval Group, and his wife Tanzina Patwary, chief of staff (nursing) at JKG Health Care, over their alleged involvement in issuing fake coronavirus test reports.

They were terminated, along with Sabrina, on June 8.

39 more die, 3,099 test positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-nine more people died from Covid-19 in the last 24 hours until yesterday, the death toll rose to 2,391.

During this time, 3,099 positive cases were recorded, taking the tally to 1,86,894, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

In the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, a total of 12,423 samples were tested in 77 labs across the country.

Of them, 24.95 percent tested positive -- up from the previous day's positivity rate of 24.11 percent.

On July 5, the positivity rate was 19.57 percent.

During yesterday's briefing, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general of DGHS, informed that more 4,703 Covid-19 patients were recovered from illness.

The total number of recovered patients rose to 98,317, which is 52.61 percent of all confirmed cases.

The death rate stood at 1.28 percent. Of yesterday's deceased, 30 were males and nine were females.

Yesterday, 34 of the deceased died in hospitals while five died in their homes.

Of them, 19 were from Dhaka division, five from Chattogram, seven from Khulna, three from Barishal, two from Sylhet, and another from Mymensingh division.

So far, Dhaka division witnessed the highest 1,195 (around 50 percent) deaths due to the Covid-19 followed by Chattogram with 623 deaths -- slightly over 26 percent.

Age-wise: one of them was under 10, one was aged between 11 and 20, three between 31 and 40, six between 41 and 50, 13 between 51 and 60 and 15 was aged over 60 years.

Meanwhile, Prof Nasima Sultana explained the reason behind the decrease in the number of daily tests.

"As per the WHO guideline, there is no need for second time testing after recovery and the health ministry has also imposed fees for Covid-19 testing. We think these reasons have caused the decline in testing," Prof Nasima said.

She also said they observed a lack of interest in people to be tested.

"Our scheduled time for collecting samples is 11:00am to 3:00pm; but we are observing no gathering after 1:00pm," she added.

She urged the poor people who need Covid tests to visit the designated centres across the country, where testing is free.

Malaysian court hears contempt case against news portal

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

A Malaysian court yesterday heard contempt case brought by the government against independent news portal Malaysiakini and its editor-in-chief over readers' comments posted on its website, in a case widely seen as a test for press freedoms.

Rights groups have accused Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's government of stifling dissent after a series of clampdowns against critics of his four-month-old administration.

Last month, Malaysia's attorney-general filed an application to cite Malaysiakini and its editor-in-chief Steven Gan for contempt over five comments posted by readers on its website that allegedly undermined public confidence in the judiciary.

Malaysiakini and Gan, who could face a jail term as well as a fine, have maintained they could not be held responsible and the offending comments had been immediately removed after they were contacted by police.

At yesterday's hearing, Malaysiakini's lawyer Malik Intiaz Sarwar argued that there was no evidence the portal intended to post the comments.

"One shouldn't be shooting the messenger unless one can actually show the messenger is the creator of the message being delivered," he told the court.

Government lawyer S. Narkunavathy said Malaysiakini should be held liable for facilitating the publishing, arguing the portal's filtering systems had been insufficient to prevent the comments from being posted.

"We say that they exercise control over the platform and, as such, they have to assume responsibility to expeditiously remove any comment that is adverse," she told the court.

Federal Court judge Rohana Yusuf said Malaysia's highest tribunal needed more time to deliberate before reaching a decision.

The case comes as six employees of Qatar-based broadcaster Al Jazeera have been questioned by police over a documentary on Malaysia's detention of undocumented migrants that authorities have accused of being inaccurate, misleading and unfair.

Jatiya Party: a year without Ershad

First death anniv of party founder today

RASHIDUL HASAN

The biggest achievement of Jatiya Party in last one year since the demise of party founder HM Ershad is that it has managed to stay united. Although the party did not split formally, there were clear indications of division in it, sources at JP said.

For example, a number of JP leaders said there are divisions between JP chief patron Raushan Ershad, her son Jatiya Party MP Shad Ershad and JP chairman GM Quader.

HM Ershad, the longest serving autocrat, managed to remain a formidable political force, especially in the politics of vote, even after his downfall in 1990.

He passed away on this day last year, at the age of 90.

Ershad, also a military general, usurped state power by removing an elected government in 1982 through a bloodless coup.

He was ousted from power through mass uprising in the late 1990.

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A serious accident is just a matter of time on the run-down Kalurghat Bridge in Chattogram, constructed in the British era. Hundreds of vehicles, plying the bridge, are facing difficulties every day, as the deck and iron fencing on both sides of the bridge have become worn-out and numerous potholes developed on it, giving way to mishaps. Under the circumstances, the railway authorities have decided to suspend vehicular movement on the bridge from 10pm to 8am til July 23 for the much-needed repair work. This photo was taken yesterday.

FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION IN DUBAI CID to seek Interpol help to nab traffickers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The syndicate that has been trafficking thousands of Bangladeshi girls for last eight years and forcing them into sex work is also involved in trafficking girls from India and Pakistan. It's Indian and Pakistani members trafficked the girls to Dubai.

The syndicate is operating brothels in Dubai under the guise of hotel business where girls, aged 18-20, from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are forced into prostitution.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, several high officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), investigating the syndicate, disclosed the development.

CID recently arrested ringleader Md Azam Khan and two other members -- Anwar Hossain Moyna and Alamin Hossain alias Diamond.

"We came to know about the racket's activities after interrogating the arrestees, talking with victims and analysing data," said a CID officer, requesting anonymity.

The officer further said they came to know that some local members in Dubai are also linked with the group.

Contacted, Imtiaz Ahmed, deputy inspector general of CID, told this correspondent yesterday that they have already got some names of the syndicate members, which include Indian and Pakistani nationals. All of them are now staying in Dubai.

"We are now preparing documents to seek Interpol's assistance through the National Central Bureau (NCB) in Police Headquarters (PHQ). It's a lengthy process and may take some time," he added.

TRAFFICKED INTO PROSTITUTION

The CID official said ringleader Azam has around 50 brokers in different

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

ACC to probe allegations against Shahed, Sabrina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will enquire into allegations against JKG Healthcare Chairperson Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury and owner of Regent Hospital and Chairman of Regent Group Md Shahed over misappropriation of public money.

The commission has already formed a three-member committee led by its Deputy Director Abu Bakar Siddiqui in this regard, ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya told the media.

There are allegations against Shahed that he amassed several crore taka through microcredit and multi-level marketing business, forgery, dodging tax and bank loans with forged documents, said Pranab.

After scrutiny, ACC decided to launch an enquiry against Shahed, he added.

On July 7, Rab filed a case against Shahed and 16 other staff of Regent Group and Regent hospitals after a mobile court found proof that hospital authorities issued fake Covid-19 certificates and charged patients for tests and treatment, violating

an agreement with the government.

Shahed went into hiding after the drive began on that day.

Two days later, Bangladesh Bank asked all banks to freeze his accounts alongside his business establishments for 30 days. Financial Intelligence Unit of BB also sought information on Shahed's accounts and of persons or organisations linked to him.

On Sunday, National Board of Revenue (NBR) directed banks to freeze all accounts of Regent Group chairman and his farms.

Meanwhile, the ACC will also investigate allegation against Dr Sabrina for amassing Tk 8 crore through forgery. ACC's special investigation cell will lead the enquiry, confirmed Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

With the help of her husband Arif Chowdhury, Sabrina allegedly prepared 15,460 fake Covid-19 certificates.

She was recently suspended from the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases for "violating rules".

There are also allegations against her of amassing wealth beyond disclosed income.

No place for the greedy in AL: Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Issuing a note of warning, Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said those who are spoiling the image of the party by accumulating wealth illegally will not be spared.

Obaidul, also the Road, Transport and Bridges Minister, made the remark while speaking at a regular online briefing from his residence.

Describing Awami League as the organisation of the people of the country and its soil, he said, "No one will be allowed to make their fortune resorting to irregularities, abusing the name of the party. There's no place for greedy people and conspirators in Awami League."

The government has taken a tough stance against irregularities and corruption in every sector, including illegal casino business, relief activities and health sector as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is taking action after unearthing corruption, said Quader.

Talking about BNP, the minister said, "Instead of standing beside the helpless people of the country, BNP is now observing their political isolation and criticising the government as they can't see people's miseries. BNP is resorting to spreading falsehood as its political strategy."

Now the people of the country no longer like the politics of blaming others, he said, adding "Now the politics should be for saving people and preventing the spread of coronavirus."

'Virtual courts need to be taken forward'

Says chief justice as full Appellate Division bench of SC begins judicial functions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A full bench of Supreme Court's Appellate Division started judicial functions virtually from yesterday to hear and dispose of urgent cases after four months.

The six-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, began proceedings at 10am and continued till 1:15pm.

At the beginning, the chief justice said the virtual court system needs to be taken forward. The bench of the Appellate Division will operate judicial functions on Monday and Thursday in a week.

If the virtual proceedings get successful, the apex court bench will operate for five working days every week, he said.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain appreciated and thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Law Minister Anisul Huq for taking necessary measures to

convert the Usage of Information and Communication Technology in Court 2020 Ordinance into a permanent law allowing the country's courts to run judicial functions virtually, Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan, a Supreme Court lawyer, who attended the virtual court proceedings, told The Daily Star.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam and Supreme Court Bar Association President Advocate AM Amin Uddin also welcomed the apex court for beginning the virtual court proceedings.

Yesterday, the Appellate Division heard and disposed of two cases although 20 cases were included in the cause list, Khurshid said.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan, also the editor of Dhaka Law Reports, said the regular activities of courts need to reopen

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Workers set up a cattle market in Muradpur Bibir Haat area in Chattogram city yesterday, despite recommendation from the national technical advisory committee on Covid-19 to not have any such cattle markets in the port city (as well as Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur cities) to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Archbishop of Chattogram Moses Costa passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIG

Moses M Costa, CSC, archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chattogram, passed away yesterday morning. He died at 9:20am due to a massive stroke while being treated at Square Hospitals Ltd in the capital, said Fr Leonard Rebeiro, vicar general of Chattogram.

He was 69 years old.

He was admitted to the hospital on June 13 with severe pneumonia, Rebeiro also said. Costa, who has been the archbishop of Chattogram since 2011, hailed from Tumulia of Gazipur.

His body is being kept in Tejaon for people to pay tributes, then it will be taken to his village in Gazipur, Rebeiro said. The archbishop will be taken to Chattogram and kept in Patharghata Catholic Church from 7am to 2pm today for people to pay their final respects.

The burial will be held on the church premises around 3:30pm, added the vicar general of Chattogram.

'Blatant abuse of power' Malaysian rights group on revoking work permit of migrant Rayhan Kabir

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Revoking the work permit of Bangladeshi migrant Rayhan Kabir, who appeared in the Al-Jazeera documentary "Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown", has been described as "blatant abuse of power".

Zaid Malek, coordinator for Malaysia-based human rights lawyers' group Lawyers for Liberty (LFL), said through no fault of his own, the 25-year old migrant worker has now been rendered undocumented by the authorities.

The remarks came from a statement published on the group's web site. In the documentary, Al Jazeera was critical of Malaysian government's treatment of migrants during the coronavirus pandemic. Pakistani, Indonesian, Bangladeshi and Malaysians were interviewed in the documentary.

However, Malaysian authorities issued a public notice last week seeking information on Rayhan Kabir. They also said Al Jazeera reporters will be interrogated for investigation.

On Sunday, Malaysia's Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador revealed that the Immigration Department had revoked the Bangladeshi's work permit and that Rayhan is now an undocumented migrant and would be deported if found.

Zaid Malek said, "The extent that the authorities are willing to go in order to hunt down one man for merely speaking up his experience of injustice to the media is alarming."

"The revocation of the Bangladeshi's permit is a blatant abuse of power and amounts to flouting of the law by the Immigration Department."

"It has been clearly stated on the Section 9(1)(c) of the Immigration Act

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

BOAT CAPSIZE IN BURIGANGA

Mayur-2 launch master arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested the master of Mayur-2 launch that hit and sank another vessel in Buriganga river on June 29, killing at least 34 persons.

Abul Bashar Molla (65) was arrested from a house in South Keraniganj area around 1am, Sujoy Sarker, assistant director of Rab's Legal and Media wing, told The Daily Star.

Bashar was one of the seven persons charged with negligence -- causing the deaths -- in a case filed by River Police with South Keraniganj Police Station following the launch capsizing.

According to River Police, Bashar was in the launch but sukani (launch staff) Nasir Mridha was steering the vessel when it hit another launch -- Morning Bird.

Most of the 34 victims were from Munshiganj district.

Earlier on July 9, River Police arrested Mayur-2 owner and prime accused Mosaddek Hanif Swad from Dhaka.

Five other accused -- master Jakir Hossain, 54; engine driver Shipon Hawlader, 45; driver Shakil Hasan, 28; launch staff Nasir Mridha, 40; and Rido, 24 -- are still on the run.

DEATHS DUE TO DROWNING

Bangladesh's fatality rate 5th in Commonwealth

Says study based on 2017 data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh had the fifth highest fatality rate due to drowning among all 54 Commonwealth countries in 2017, finds a study.

About 37 percent of global drowning deaths occurred in these countries, where 1,10,594 people died in that year, the study revealed.

Half of the deceased were aged below 19 years, and 26 percent were under five years old, it said.

Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) released the study titled "Fatal Drowning in Commonwealth Countries" yesterday.

RLSS Commonwealth President Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO, said, "Understandably, people's attention is very much focused on the terrible worldwide effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sadly, this does not mean that other avoidable deaths are not occurring throughout the world."

He called upon the countries' governments to take steps to prevent unnecessary loss of lives through simple drowning prevention interventions.

In terms of total casualties, Bangladesh stood second with 14,029 drowning cases. The highest number of people -- 60,199 -- drowned in India in 2017.

Approximately 14 percent of the country remains underwater throughout the year, where frequent flooding turns disastrous.

The combined number of fatal drownings in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan makes up approximately 78 percent of such cases across the 54 countries, the study finds.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Not a drop of water remains in this canal beside the capital's Demra Staff Quarter Road. Instead, the area is filled to the brim with mountains of plastic waste. Such blatant disregard for the environment does not only pollute waterways, but impacts the lives of residents nearby as well, as they are deprived of a clean liveable city. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CID to seek

FROM PAGE 3
districts in Bangladesh. The brokers would lure girls with the hopes of a job that would pay Tk 50,000 per month, he said.

Once the girls would agree, Azam took support from some agencies and managed tourist visas for them. The brokers would get Tk 10,000 for managing each girl, said the official.

A high official of CID, requesting anonymity, said the syndicate always took four to five girls at a time and a broker traveled with them to Dubai.

"Once they reached Dubai, two brothers of Azam, who were also involved with the racket, took them to hotels," said the official, quoting two victims' confessional statement given in a court recently.

They would first be given jobs as receptionists or waitresses. A few days later, they would be forced to work at dance clubs and then as sex workers. The girls would be tortured if they refused.

Some eight victims have come back home in the last month with assistance of the Bangladesh embassy in the UAE, the official said.

In their statement, the two victims, who were trafficked to Dubai in January last year, said they were trying to escape and return to Bangladesh but could not as the group members kept constant watch.

Finally, they were able to manage the local number of Bangladesh embassy and sought help, they said.

Jishan Ul Hoque, senior assistant commissioner of CID, said they are now collecting information of the victims, who were trafficked by Azam's syndicate.

"We have information that a huge number of Bangladeshi girls are still held there. We are also informing the authorities concerned at the ministry and the embassy to take initiatives to bring them back home safely," he added.

85km of RHD roads damaged by flooding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 85 kilometres roads under Roads and Highways Department (RHD) network in eight districts were damaged due to ongoing flood in northern and north-western regions in the country till Sunday.

Several roads in Sunamganj are still under water, as per RHD's Flood Information Centre.

The highest 28km roads got damaged in Sunamganj while 25.1km in Gopalganj, 15.6km in Kurigram, 4.08km in Habiganj, 0.36km in Tangail, 3km in Netrakona, 3.2km in Gaibandha and 5.73km in Jamalpur, according to the centre.

Roads in many areas were partially washed out, it said. "We are fearing that more roads may be damaged as flood situation is deteriorating," an official of the centre told The Daily Star yesterday.

Railway to bring 10 locomotives from India by this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) is going to bring 10 locomotives from India by this month, to overcome its locomotive crisis.

"Ten broad gauge locomotives will arrive in Bangladesh from India at the end of this month," BR's Director General Md Shamsuzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

India would give the locomotive as a gesture of friendship, railway sources said.

With 72 percent locomotives of BR already crossing their economic life, the government last year took initiatives to hire locomotives from India for the first time to help the railway overcome the crisis.

In April last year, BR sent a proposal to the railways ministry to "hire" or "get as courtesy" 20 railway engines (10 broad gauge and 10 meter gauge) from India until the first batch of 70 locomotives that Bangladesh bought from the US and South Korea starts arriving mid-next year.

"Until then, the 10 locomotives would be very helpful for them," he said. However, BR will not bring meter gauge (MG) locomotives from India. They did not get suitable MG locomotives as India phased out such engines long ago, Md Shamsuzzaman added.

According to BR documents of May last year, it had 178 MG locomotives, of which 139 have crossed their 20-year economic life. Of its 90 BG locomotives, 55 have completed their economic life.

Madaripur road crash kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed in a road accident in Kulopdi area of Sadar upazila in Madaripur yesterday, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

The deceased -- identified as Liton Hawladar (25), son of Khalil Hawladar from Kalaimara village in the same upazila -- was a carpenter, according to local police.

Quoting locals, Kamrul Hasan Mia, officer-in-charge of Madaripur Sadar Police Station said, "The accident took place when a tractor ran a motorbike Liton was riding to Madaripur town around 8am."

Liton died on the spot, Kamrul Hasan further said.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Madaripur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the tractor, but the driver managed to flee the scene, added the police official.

Blatant abuse

FROM PAGE 3

1959/63 that it only allows the Director General of Immigration to cancel a permit if it is prejudicial to public order, public security, public health or morality in Malaysia."

"It is inconceivable that the mere action of highlighting his plight to the media would fall under any of the categories listed under section 9(1)(c)," he said in a statement.


Zaid claimed that it was as though the Immigration Department was trying to legitimise a witch hunt on the said man.

"This act only serves to strengthen the allegation that migrants are being unfairly treated and targeted by the authorities."

The illegitimate manhunt and persecution of this innocent man must not be allowed to continue, the statement urged.

"We demand the authorities to immediately halt its unjustified and unlawful pursuit of this man and strongly urge the government to immediately step in and stop this clear abuse of power by the authorities," he urged.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Today is the third Death Anniversary of Mrs. Pratima Das Gupta of Baridhara Diplomatic Zone, Dhaka a prominent social worker and philanthropist. All relatives, friends and well wishers are cordially requested to keep her in their prayer.

Dilip Das Gupta – Husband
Sangita & Suparna – Daughter

ফ্র্যাট ভাড়া হবে

একটি ফ্র্যাটের ২৪ তলা থেকে ৫৫ তলা পর্যন্ত একটি ৮টি ইউনিট। প্রতি ইউনিটে ২টি বেডরুম, ১টি বাথরুম, ১টি কুখানা এবং স্মল কিচেন সহ ইলেকট্রিক্যালস। প্রতি ইউনিটে ৭০০-৮০০ বর্গফুট এবং ১৬০০ বর্গফুট। ফ্র্যাট ভাড়া ২টি আলগা অফিস রুম, স্টোররুম, গার্ড রুম, উল্টো ও গার্ডি পার্কিং এর সুবিধা রয়েছে। বিদ্যুৎ বিল গ্যাস বিল নিজেই। ৩ মাসের প্রতিমাসে ভাড়া হার আবেদন রাখতে। সরকারী বা বেসরকারী কোনো বাণিজ্যিক সংস্থা থেকে ভাড়া নেয়া হবে। ২১/০৬/২০২০

যোগাযোগ

০১৯০২-১৭৬২২২, ০১৯০৬-৬৬৬০২

Jatiya Party

FROM PAGE 3

Within two months of Ershad's demise, a rift between followers of Raushan and GM Quader became so bitter over party leadership and post of the Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad that followers of Raushan through a press conference in September, 2019 declared her JP chairperson.

Raushan, who was present at the event, said JP leaders were worried about the party. They also fear that the party is going to split like it did in the past. "But I want to run the party together, with all," she said.

Apart from other leaders and activists, 10 JP president members, including five MPs, were present there.

Hours after the Raushan faction's press conference, Quader held a briefing at the party's Banani office and said action would be taken against those who declared Raushan the JP chief, claiming to be the chairman as per party charter.

Relations between the two worsened further over becoming the Leader of the Opposition. However, GM Quader in the last one year tackled and resolved most of the divisions, party insiders said. "He also worked to build a bridge between the two," said a presidium member of JP.

Asked, GM Quader said there is no division in the party. Everyone is united to materialise the ideals of Ershad.

"Ershad is our role model. Jatiya Party is moving forward following the path he showed us, to fulfil the expectations of people. I believe, the party is on the right track," he said.

Raushan Ershad could not be contacted for comments despite repeated attempts.

Virtual courts

FROM PAGE 3

strictly following the health guidelines for the interest of lawyers and litigants.

More than 90 percent lawyers cannot connect the virtual court proceedings and therefore they cannot provide service, he opined.

The chief justice on July 12 has decided to run virtual proceedings at the Appellate Division, strictly following health guidelines.

A full bench of the Appellate Division last conducted proceedings on March 12. Then the SC's Appellate and High Court divisions went on an annual vacation.

The chief justice declared general holiday for all courts across the country from March 26 due to coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, Justice Md Nuruzzaman, an Appellate Division judge, has been holding hearings and disposing of cases as the division's chamber judge throughout the period.

On July 8, the chief justice at a full court meeting decided to continue running virtual functions of the Appellate and HC divisions until the situation improves.

The meeting decided that the chief justice will constitute at least four to five division benches of the HC, so they can act with judicial powers like that of regular division benches.

Chief Justice Mahmud Hossain will increase the number of single judge HC benches from the existing 13 to hear and dispose of more cases.

Everything will be done after necessary logistical support, including internet and server facilities, are ensured.

The chief justice also decided to assign all judges of the HC division to conduct virtual court functions by rotation.

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited
Bangladesh Limited
Based on Islamic Shari'ah

Operations Wing Engineering Division
Procurement of Computer Hardware And Accessories Department.
20 Dilkusha C/A (9th Floor), Dhaka 1000

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from reputed Local Agents / Companies / Dealers / Distributors/ Resellers for supplying, installing, configuration, deployment, updating and necessary technical support for Two Factor Authentication Solution for five years for the bank under the following terms and conditions:

The intending bidders have to apply in their letter head pad for purchasing tender document for supplying, installing, configuration, deployment, updating and necessary technical support for Two Factor Authentication Solution for five years for the bank. The tender document will be sold upon payment of Tk. 2,000/- only in cash (non-refundable) from 14.07.2020 to 26.07.2020 during office hours and tender will be received at the office of the undersigned during office hours up to 3:00 PM on 27.07.2020. Technical offer(s) will be opened at 3:15 PM on the same date virtually in presence of the Bidder(s) or their representatives (who may like to attend). A pre bid meeting in this regard will be held virtually on 20.07.2020 at 11.30 AM. Details information relating to the Tender are available at Bank's website: www.islami.bank.bd.com or in the form of hard copy at the office of the undersigned.

FAVP & Head of Department

Rajshahi City Corporation
Engineering Department
Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.14.244.2020.988 Date: 13.07.2020

Addendum

The Tender Document for the Procurement of Services, Tender Package No. SW-01 issued via Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.14.244.2020.868 Dated: 16.06.2020 has been revised as mentioned below:

S.L.	As per Tender Document	Revised
1.	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 1. Assistant Engineer-6 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-48	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 1. Assistant Engineer-6 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-6x48
2.	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 3. Sub-Assistant Engineer-12 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-48	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 3. Sub-Assistant Engineer-12 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-12x48
3.	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 5. Work Assistant-14 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-48	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 5. Work Assistant-14 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-14x48
4.	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 6. Computer/Data Entry Operator-2 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-48	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 6. Computer/Data Entry Operator-2 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-2x48
5.	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 8. Office Helper-2 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-48	Section-6. Activity Schedule (ITT Sub-Clause No. 22.2) column-2 8. Office Helper-2 Nos. i. Consolidated pay Column-4 Quantity-2x48
6.	Column-2 Sub-total-A (1 to 7) Column-6 Amount (BDT) 4285220.00	Column-2 Sub-total-A (1 to 8) Column-6 Amount (BDT): (Has been omitted)
7.	Note: A Proposed manpower Column 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 shall be filled by PE.	Note: A Proposed manpower row 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 shall be filled by PE.

• Tender closing (submission) date has been revised to 29.07.2020 instead of 15.07.2020. Time will remain unchanged.
• Tender opening date has been revised to 29.07.2020 instead of 15.07.2020. Time will remain unchanged.
• Tender Document last selling date has been revised to 28.07.2020 instead of 14.07.2020. Time will remain unchanged.
All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This Addendum will be treated as an integral part of the Proposal Documents.

Sd/-
Md. Golam Mursheed
Executive Engineer (Dw-1)
Rajshahi City Corporation
GD-1131

"শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ, খবর খবর শিখর"

ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Office of the Chief Engineer
Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, Siddhirganj, Narayanganj
Tel: 880-2-7691283, Fax: 880-2-7691280, E-mail: zinnat@egcb.com.bd

Ref: 27.27.6738.206.09.001.20.0981 Date: 13/07/2020

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following procurement:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Description	Publication Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1	469608	27.27.6738.206.03.001.20.0800, Date: 11/06/2020	Procurement of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 132 KV Underground XLPE cable, Jointing Kit, Termination Kit, Post Insulator, other accessories, etc. and recovery of 132 KV Underground old cable.	12-Jul-2020 14:00 Hr	23-Aug-2020 14:00 Hr

For detailed information please visit the following links:
<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/resources/common/ViewTender.jsp?id=469608&h=f>

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Ashine Kumar Mondal
Sub-Divisional Engineer (Electrical)
Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সিভিল সার্জন এর কার্যালয়
টাঙ্গাইল

স্মারক নং-সিএসসি/শা-১/আউটসোর্সিং/অনুলব্ধ সরবরাহ/২০২০-২০২১/ তারিখ ১৩/০৭/২০২০ইং

আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, টাঙ্গাইল ও নিম্নলিখিত বিভিন্ন স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য আউটসোর্সিং নিতিমতাল ২০১৮ বিধিমাণের আওতার কাটা পঞ্জী ১, ৪ ও ৫ এর বিধিমাণ পূর্বে আউটসোর্সিং নিতিমতাল অনুসরণে জনবল সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত ট্রিশাল নিয়োগের জন্য পিপিএ ২০০৬, পিপিআর ২০০৮, আউটসোর্সিং নিতিমতাল ২০১৮ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল বিধিবিধান মোতাবেক অত্র আউটসোর্সিং জনবল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ট্রিশালদের নিম্নলিখিত হতে গ্রহণ করা হবে।

ক্রমিক নং	ক্রমিক নাম	বিস্তারিত
০১	মুখ্যসচিব/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়/স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগ।
০২	সহসচিব/সচিব/সচিব	সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, টাঙ্গাইল।
০৩	সহসচিব/সচিব/সচিব	সিভিল সার্জন, টাঙ্গাইল।
০৪	সহসচিব/সচিব/সচিব	টাঙ্গাইল।
০৫	কর্তৃপক্ষ	আউটসোর্সিং নিতিমতাল অনুসরণে জনবল সরবরাহ গ্রহণ "ক" (ছাড়া রাখার ব্যতীত পদ)- মাদী, বাগী, কুম/মশালী, গার্ডিয়ান, আয়, পিকিউপিটি পার্ট, পরিষ্কারকারী)। গ্রহণ-"খ" (অস্থায়ী রাখার ব্যতীত পদ)- টিকট কার্ভ, কুম/মশালী ও পিকিউপিটি পার্ট।
০৬	কর্তৃপক্ষ	১,০৬,০৩,৪৪০/০০
০৭	অর্থিক কক্ষ	২০২০-২০২১ইং।
০৮	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০৯	বায়েট ও তথ্যবিভাগের উদ্যোগ	ডিজিটাল।
১০	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	১৩/০৭/২০২০ইং।
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৭/০৭/২০২০ইং বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৭/২০২০ইং দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৭/২০২০ইং দুপুর ১২-৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪	দরপত্র সিভিল সার্জনের ক্ষেত্র, বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও সন্মতি	সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, টাঙ্গাইল। অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২০১৮ কে গ্রহণ "ক" এর সিভিল সার্জনের ক্ষেত্র বাবদ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) এবং গ্রহণ "খ" এর সিভিল সার্জনের ক্ষেত্র বাবদ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা সেনারী ব্যাংক, প্রধান শাখা, টাঙ্গাইলে ড্রাইভের চালানো জন্য গ্রহণকারীর চালানের মূল্যবিশেষ নিম্নলিখিত পদ্ধতিতে প্যাকে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে সিভিল সার্জনে করা হবে।
১৫	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, টাঙ্গাইল।
১৬	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, টাঙ্গাইল। ২৮/০৭/২০২০ তারিখ, দুপুর ১২-৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৭	দরপত্র প্রকাশ/প্রিন্টআউটের মোটামুটি	দরপত্র সিভিল সার্জনের সংযুক্ত শর্তাবলী মতে।
১৮	সংক্রান্ত নথি	সহসচিব/সচিব/সচিব কে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা ব্যক্তি করার ক্ষমতা সরবরাহ করে। কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

দরপত্র সিভিল সার্জনের ক্ষেত্র

ক্রমিক নং	ক্রমিক নাম	বিস্তারিত
১	ক জনবল সরবরাহ (ক্যাটাগরি ৪ ও ৫ বিভিন্ন পদ) প্রতিষ্ঠান সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, টাঙ্গাইল ও নিম্নলিখিত বিভিন্ন স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ।	প্রতিটি ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা ১,৫২,০০০/- (এক লাখ বায়ান্ন হাজার) টাকা
খ	জনবল সরবরাহ (ক্যাটাগরি ১, ৪ ও ৫ বিভিন্ন পদ) প্রতিষ্ঠান ৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, কলিয়ারী, খাতাইল, মনুপুর, বাসাইল ও সবিপুর।	প্রতিটি ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা ৩১,০০০/- (একত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা

দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম
দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী
দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা
দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগ
দরপত্রের মোটামুটি

ডাঃ মোহাম্মদ গোলামুজ্জামান
সিভিল সার্জন
টাঙ্গাইল

১৩/০৭/২০২০

Bangladesh's

FROM PAGE 3

"Now is the time for action of the Commonwealth nations to prevent these unnecessary deaths," said Drowning Prevention Director of RLSS Dr Aminur Rahman, who led the study.

Prof AKM Fazlur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB) -- a member of RLSS and promotes water safety in Bangladesh -- said, "We call upon government agencies and ministries to provide necessary support in implementing the preventable measures outlined in the report to reduce the loss of life to drowning."

ERRATUM

In an obituary published on page 4 yesterday, the designation of S Mahmud Yunus was mistakenly written as former accounts and finance officer of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, instead of former chief accounts and finance officer. We regret the error.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Mymensingh
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.6100.000.07.001.20-2405

e-Tender Notice: 01/2020-21

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

No.	Package No. & scheme name	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time	Tendering method
1	MRRIDP/19/MYM/TRIS/UNR/178 Improvement of BC road of Moksur UP-Khalabari Bazar road via Joynatala road at Ch. 1735-5600m under Trishal Upazila District Mymensingh. Road ID No. 361943011	463180	Date: 12-Aug-2020 Time: 17:00	Date: 13-Aug-2020 Time: 13:45	OSTETM
2	MRRIDP/20/MYM/F.BARIA/UNR/213 Improvement of BC road of Bashdmore-Kishoreganj via Shusuli Babuanj road Ch. 5250-6850m under Fulbaria Upazila District Mymensingh. Road ID-361203006 salvage amount Tk 935155.00	463133	Date: 12-Aug-2020 Time: 17:00	Date: 13-Aug-2020 Time: 13:45	OSTETM
3	MRRIDP/20/MYM/TRIS/BRDG/VR/234 Construction of 35.0m Long PSC Girder Bridge over Trishal-Purabari via Cheekna road at Ch. 3050m under Trishal Upazila District Mymensingh. Road ID 361944054	471771	Date: 12-Aug-2020 Time: 17:00	Date: 13-Aug-2020 Time: 13:45	OSTETM
4	MRRIDP/20/MYM/NISHA/BRDG/UR/235 Construction of 75.00m Long PSC Girder Bridge over Mymensingh-Kishoreganj RHD-Balpara GC road at Ch. 7180m under Isthwarganj Upazila District Mymensingh. Road ID-361312007	478971	Date: 12-Aug-2020 Time: 17:00	Date: 13-Aug-2020 Time: 13:45	OSTETM
5	MRRIDP/20/MYM/F.BARIA/BRDG/UR/237 Construction of 80.0m Long RCC Girder Bridge over Fulbaria GC Trishal GC road via Durduria Fulbaria portion road at Ch. 7400m under Fulbaria Upazila District Mymensingh. Road ID-361202014	467106	Date: 12-Aug-2020 Time: 17:00	Date: 13-Aug-2020 Time: 13:45	OSTETM
6	Pd/CLBUUR/PPN-156 Construction of 78.125m Long PSC Girder Bridge over Shulia river on Jamal Masterer Bari Pathoil-Gaffarganj Wahab Masterer Bari Rajoi-Bhaluka road at Ch. 1140m under Gaffarganj Upazila District Mymensingh. Road ID No. 361225218	478878	Date: 12-Aug-2020 Time: 17:00	Date: 13-Aug-2020 Time: 13:45	OSTETM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The e-Tender security submitted last date & time from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches 12 Aug 2020 17:00 respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) also from E-mail xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd or Call to 091-86376, 091-86110, 091-84365. Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Md. Nur Hossain Bhuiyan
Executive Engineer
LGED, Mymensingh
xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd
GD-1129



The road from Chaumohana in Kulaura upazila town to Jhilerpar in Prithimpasha union of the upazila under Moulvibazar lies in a horrible condition for years.

PHOTO:
STAR

Thousands suffer as road condition awful

Two roads extending 16-km in Kulaura see only 40 percent work in scheduled time

MINU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Thousands of commuters are badly suffering due to the awful condition of two important roads under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar.

The RHD in 2018 gave a Tk 36-crore work order jointly to Wahid Construction and Spectra International to repair and widen the 12-km-long road from Nabin Chandra High School at Chaumohana in Kulaura upazila town to Jhilerpar in Prithimpasha union of the upazila and the four-km-long road from Robirbazar town to Tilagaon Bazar in Tilagaon union.

The work started in December 2018 with a schedule to complete on June 30 this year but only 40 per cent of the development work of the two roads has been completed in the period.

During a recent visit to the spot, this correspondent learnt that the residents of different

areas of Rautgaon, Karmadha, Prithimpasha, Tilagaon, Sharifpur and Hajipur unions of Kulaura use the two roads to travel to the upazila headquarters and Moulvibazar district town.

Vehicles regularly plying the broken road often get damaged, said Arab Ali, joint secretary of CNG autorickshaw transport workers union in Rabirbazar-Kulaura unit, told this correspondent. "Commuters including teachers, students and traders regularly use the Kulaura -- Rabirbazar road. Usually it would take 20 minutes for a CNG autorickshaw to cross the road but it now takes double the time due to its awful condition," said Abdul Kadir, principal of Ali Amjad School and College.

Drivers also charge extra fare due to the road condition, he said.

Local resident Syed Ashfaq Tanvir, general secretary of Robirbazar Club, told this correspondent, "These roads have remained

unusable for four to five years. Now it has become more unsuitable due to the unfinished fixing work."

Sahadeb Sutradhar, sub-assistant engineer of the RHD, who is in charge of supervising the road repair work, said 40 percent of the work on the Kulaura-Prithimpasha and Rabirbazar-Tilagaon Bazar roads has been completed.

Asked about the slow pace of work, engineer Md Asaduzzaman, in-charge of the two contracting companies, said, the road work requires a lot of stones but the supply of stones through LC stopped due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Shahriar Alam, executive engineer of RHD in Moulvibazar, said, "There were some problems in the work of the contractor. Then in wake of the Covid-19 situation, the government extended the tenure of the ongoing work for one year. If the situation improves, the work of the two roads will be completed soon."

BRINGING BIRDS BACK TO TOWN

Patuakhali town turning green

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The Patuakhali municipality has launched a tree planting programme in order to beautify the town as well as to make the town habitable for birds.

Under the programme, the municipality will plant more than five thousand fruit, medicinal and beautifying trees in road medians and around lakes and water bodies in the town.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, the town mayor, inaugurated the programme recently by planting saplings on a road median in front of the town's old jailhouse.

Along with other local species of trees, some foreign plants such as Nakachua from Thailand and cherry from India have so far been planted to beautify a four-kilometre stretch of the median, stretching from Government Women's College to Jainkathi embankment.

Different trees including mango, kalo jaam, jackfruit, litchi, coconut, banyan, jalpai (Ceylon olive), amalaki (Indian gooseberry), tamarind, kamranga (star fruit or carambola), dewa (monkey jackfruit), neem, mahogany and chambal are also being planted on unused and vacant land surrounding ponds and water bodies in the town.

Jahangir Sikder, general secretary of Patuakhali Diabetic Association, said the townspeople used to enjoy chirping of different birds as Patuakhali town was full of large trees.

Over time, those trees have been chopped down and the number of birds

declined after they lost their habitat. The planting of trees by the municipality is a laudable initiative that will help increase bird population again, he also said.

Lincon Bayen, coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Barisal division, said birds play a vital role in maintaining environmental balance. Loss of food and habitat have put many species of birds on the verge of extinction, but people running after life in the fast lane have been ignoring this aspect of the environment.

Under the circumstances, the initiative taken by the municipality can set an example for all, he added.

Patuakhali Municipality Executive Engineer Jasim Uddin Arju said they have undertaken the tree planting programme considering the loss of food and habitat of many birds due to rapid urbanisation and destruction of the environment.

He also said that a total of around five thousand trees are being planted so the birds can nest in the trees while they can feed on the fruits of the trees.

When reached for his comment over this initiative, Mayor Mohiuddin Ahmed told this correspondent that the greenery and fruit trees in the town will not only provide food and shelter to birds, but also provide visual relief and tranquillity to townspeople who otherwise get tired of the hustle and bustle of the town.

People busy with their daily life will at least be able to enjoy the greenery because, after all, people appreciate beauty, said the mayor.



Mayor Mohiuddin Ahmed, right, of Patuakhali municipality, during the tree planting programme on a road median in the town recently.

PHOTO:
STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project
Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212

No. DGHS/PD/COVID-19 REAP/Consultant/16/2020/31

Date: 12 July 2020

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for Selection of Consultant for the Position of Procurement Specialist (Individual, National), (Package: IC-1)

- The Directorate General of Health Services of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been allocated public funds from the development budget of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) and financed by GOB and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of COVID 19 Response Emergency Assistance Project (CREAP) and, intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds under the ADB's Loan No. 3819-BAN, to eligible payments to the selected consultant under the consultancy services for Procurement Specialist (Individual, National).
- The COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project (the project) will support the Government of Bangladesh in addressing the immediate and urgent needs for financial, logistical and systemic support to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. The project is an integral and vital part of the National Preparedness and Response Plan for containment, mitigation and management of COVID-19. The project will support the procurement of equipment and supplies, the upgrading of health and testing facilities, and build system and community capacities for surveillance, prevention and response to COVID-19. The PIU will carry out the emergency procurement of the project. PIU may take support from the Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) of the MOHFW for procurement of selected goods and the Public Works Department (PWD) of the Ministry of Housing and Public. The purpose of the assignment is to support the project executing (MoHFW)/implementing agencies (DGHS) in procurement activities during project implementation. The consultant will undertake the tasks with the counterpart staff of EA/IA in their activities of procurement (goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services) and project implementation.
- The project will engage One National Procurement Specialist as per requirement of TOR. The duration of the assignment is continuously for 20 (Twenty) person-months. It is expected that the services will commence tentatively from August, 2020. The detailed TOR for this assignment is available on ADB's CSRN or CMS website (csrn.adb.org or cms.adb.org) and DGHS website (<https://www.dgsh.gov.bd>). The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained by contacting the office of the Project Director during regular office hours or can be requested to the email pdcreap@ld.dgsh.gov.bd.
- DGHS now invites eligible National Individual Consultant to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for providing the required services. The interested consultant may obtain further information from ADB's CMS and, if necessary, by applying to the address below during regular office hour. The national specialist shall be the citizen of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- EOI must be submitted in standard template through ADB's Consultant Management System (CMS) at <http://cms.adb.org> along with detailed CV. *Only online submission in ADB's CMS will be evaluated.*
- A Consultant will be selected using the Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) method in accordance with the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers, 2017. In addition to ADB's eligibility requirements, the short-listing shall be carried out using the following three major criteria corresponding to the EOI Evaluation Template:
 - General qualification
 - Assignment related experience
 - Regional experience and others.
- The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest (EOI) is 11:59pm (Manila local time) on 22 July, 2020 through ADB CMS.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof.

Signature 12/7/20

Dr. Md. Aminul Hasan

Director (Hospital), Directorate General of Health Services
and Project Director, COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project
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GD-1122

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project
Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212

No. DGHS/PD/COVID-19 REAP/Consultant/16/2020/32

Date: 12 July 2020

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for Selection of Consultant for the Position of Procurement Specialist (Individual, National), (Package: IC-2)

- The Directorate General of Health Services of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been allocated public funds from the development budget of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) and financed by GOB and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of COVID 19 Response Emergency Assistance Project (CREAP) and, intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds under the ADB's Loan No. 3819-BAN, to eligible payments to the selected consultant under the consultancy services for Procurement Specialist (Individual, National).
- The COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project (the project) will support the Government of Bangladesh in addressing the immediate and urgent needs for financial, logistical and systemic support to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. The project is an integral and vital part of the National Preparedness and Response Plan for containment, mitigation and management of COVID-19. The project will support the procurement of equipment and supplies, the upgrading of health and testing facilities, and build system and community capacities for surveillance, prevention and response to COVID-19. The PIU will carry out the emergency procurement of the project. PIU may take support from the Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) of the MOHFW for procurement of selected goods and the Public Works Department (PWD) of the Ministry of Housing and Public. The purpose of the assignment is to support the project executing (MoHFW)/implementing agencies (DGHS) in procurement activities during project implementation. The consultant will undertake the tasks with the counterpart staff of EA/IA in their activities of procurement (goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services) and project implementation.
- The project will engage One National Procurement Specialist as per requirement of TOR. The duration of the assignment is continuously for 20 (Twenty) person-months. It is expected that the services will commence tentatively from August, 2020. The detailed TOR for this assignment is available on ADB's CSRN or CMS website (csrn.adb.org or cms.adb.org) and DGHS website (<https://www.dgsh.gov.bd>). The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained by contacting the office of the Project Director during regular office hours or can be requested to the email pdcreap@ld.dgsh.gov.bd.
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- A Consultant will be selected using the Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) method in accordance with the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers, 2017. In addition to ADB's eligibility requirements, the short-listing shall be carried out using the following three major criteria corresponding to the EOI Evaluation Template:
 - General qualification
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 - Regional experience and others.
- The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest (EOI) is 11:59pm (Manila local time) on 22 July, 2020 through ADB CMS.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof.

Signature 12/7/20

Dr. Md. Aminul Hasan

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GD-1123

CRACKDOWN ON UIGHURS

China announces retaliatory sanctions

REUTERS, Beijing

China announced "corresponding sanctions" against the United States yesterday after Washington penalised senior Chinese officials over the treatment of minority Uighur Muslims in the western region of Xinjiang.

China's move comes as relations between the world's two biggest economic powerhouses have slumped over disagreements on issues including the coronavirus pandemic, trade, Huawei and a sweeping national security law imposed on Hong Kong.

The sanctions targeted Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, US Representative Chris Smith, Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback and the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China.

Rubio and Cruz have both sponsored legislation that would punish China's actions in Xinjiang. Smith has also been a vocal critic of China on issues ranging from Xinjiang to Hong Kong and the coronavirus. All three are members of President Donald Trump's Republican Party.

"The US actions seriously interfere in China's internal affairs, seriously violate the basic norms of international relations and seriously damage Sino-US relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters. "China will make further responses based on how the situation develops."

UN experts and activists say at least a million Uighurs and other Muslims are held in detention centres in Xinjiang. China describes them as training centres helping to stamp out terrorism and extremism and give people new skills.

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China monitors human rights and the development of the rule of law and submits an annual report to Trump and Congress.



This aerial view shows the inundated Tianxingzhou island in Wuhan in China's Hubei province yesterday. As many as 33 rivers in China have risen to their highest levels in history during the current wave of floods, a senior water ministry official said. More than 140 people are either dead or missing due to severe floods in several Chinese regions that have affected nearly 38 million people, authorities in Beijing said.

PHOTO: AFP

Zindzi Mandela, daughter of Nelson Mandela, dies

Zindzi Mandela, daughter of former South African president and liberation hero Nelson Mandela, died yesterday, the Mandela family said. Zindzi Mandela, the youngest daughter of anti-apartheid activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Nelson Mandela, rose to international prominence when she read out Nelson Mandela's rejection of then-president PW Botha's offer of a conditional release from prison in 1985. The Mandela Legacy Foundation, speaking on behalf of the family, said memorial and funeral arrangements for Zindzi would be announced in the course of the week. It did not say why she had died. 59-year-old Zindzi, who served as South Africa's ambassador to Denmark, died in the early hours on Monday in a Johannesburg hospital.

Malaysia PM Muhyiddin wins parliamentary test of support

Malaysia's prime minister narrowly won a vote to remove the parliament speaker during a rowdy session of the legislature yesterday, a key test of support for the embattled leader. The Southeast Asian nation has been gripped by turmoil since a reformist government collapsed in February and Muhyiddin Yassin became premier, at the head of a coalition backed by a scandal-plagued party. He took power without an election, and there had been speculation he did not have sufficient support from MPs to hang on to power. But in a closely watched vote as parliament resumed following a break due to the coronavirus pandemic, his motion to remove the speaker won the support of 111 MPs against 109 for the opposition. It was the first time that a speaker had been removed in such a fashion in Malaysia.

Hugging a tree in Israel to beat the coronavirus blues



Can't embrace friends and family these days? Hug a tree instead. That is the message Israel's Nature and Parks Authority is spreading on social media to try to help people overcome the sense of detachment that coronavirus social-distancing rules can bring. "In this unpleasant corona period we recommend to people around the world to go out to nature, take a deep breath, hug a tree, express your love and get love," Orit Steinfeld, the authority's marketing director, said in Apollonia National Park. After flattening a coronavirus infection curve in May, Israel has experienced a spike in new cases over the past several weeks. Israel's tree-hugging campaign follows a similar endeavour launched in April by Iceland's forestry service.

SOURCE: AFP

Immunity may not last

Warns study; UN says world hunger worsening amid pandemic

AFP, Paris

Patients who recover from coronavirus infections may lose their immunity to reinfection within months, according to research released yesterday that experts said could have a "significant" influence on how governments manage the pandemic.

In the first study of its kind, a team led by researchers from King's College London examined the levels of antibodies in more than 90 confirmed virus patients and how they changed over time.

Blood tests showed even individuals with only mild COVID-19 symptoms mounted some immune response to the virus. Of the study group, 60 percent showed a "potent" viral response in the first few weeks after infection.

However, after three months only 16.7 percent had maintained high levels of COVID-19-neutralising antibodies, and after 90 days several patients had no detectable antibodies in their bloodstream.

The research suggests immunity cannot be taken for granted and may not last more than a few months, as is true with other viruses such as influenza.

Experts said the findings may change how governments plan for the next phase of the pandemic, including how they fund and organise vaccine research and development.

Meanwhile, according to a United Nations report published yesterday, nearly one in nine people in the world are going hungry.

Economic slowdowns and climate-related shocks are pushing more people into hunger, while nutritious foods remain too expensive for many, contributing not only to undernourishment, but to growing rates of obesity in all.

Nearly 690 million people, or 8.9 percent of people around the globe, are hungry, the UN found. That number rose by 10 million people in just one year to 2019, found the study, which said eradicating hunger by 2030 - a goal set five years ago - will be impossible if trends continue.

Five United Nations agencies co-authored the report: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Nepal landslides toll rises to 60

AGENCIES

Four days of continuous heavy rain and landslides have killed 60 people in Nepal. 41 people are missing, authorities said yesterday.

Myagdi district in western Nepal is the worst affected with 27 deaths. Rescue operations are under way. Hundreds have been displaced as landslides buried their homes. Local school buildings and community centres have been turned into shelters for the flood-affected people.

"In the first phase we rescued the injured people and that took us around 30-35 hours to complete. Now, we are continuing our search operation for the missing who are believed to be buried under the debris. Identification of the dead and arrangements for their cremation are being done," Thamsara Pun, village head of Dhaulagiri in Myagdi said.

Landslides and floods are common in the Himalayan country during the monsoon season. Landslides have also blocked roads and mudslides are hampering rescue operations, say local news reports.

Last week, at least 12 people were killed in landslides and 19 others missing, the country's police said on Friday. Three children are among those who died in landslides.

Narayani and other major rivers in Nepal are swollen due to the continuous downpour in the last few days.

Earlier, the meteorological office of Nepal had predicted heavy rain over the weekend across the country.



NYT: Trump considered selling Puerto Rico in 2017

CNN ONLINE

US President Donald Trump considered the idea of selling Puerto Rico in 2017 after the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria, the former acting Homeland Security secretary told The New York Times in an interview.

"The President's initial ideas were more of as a businessman, you know," Elaine Duke, who was serving as DHS' acting secretary when the hurricane hit the island in September 2017, told the Times.

"Can we outsource the electricity? Can we can we sell the island? You know, or divest of that asset?" Trump reportedly said, according to Duke in the newspaper interview. "(She said the idea of selling Puerto Rico was never seriously considered or discussed after Trump raised it.)" the paper reported.

Puerto Rico was ravaged by Hurricane Maria killing nearly 3,000 people.

Trump has taken aim at Puerto Rican officials for their management of the billions in relief funds his administration has appropriated for storm recovery, accusing the island's leaders of spending some of that money for reasons other than hurricane clean-up.



Firefighting boats spray water onto the US Navy amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard as smoke rises from a fire onboard the ship at Naval Base San Diego, as seen from Coronado, California, US, on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CRISIS IN RAJASTHAN Congress says has support of 109 MLAs

THE STATESMAN/ANN

Hours after Indian state Rajasthan's Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot declared open rebellion and claimed that the Ashok Gehlot government in the state is in minority, central Congress leader Avinash Pandey yesterday said 109 MLAs have signed a letter of support to the chief minister.

Pandey said the BJP was behind the "conspiracy" to topple the Ashok Gehlot government but it will complete its term. In the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly, the Congress has 107 MLAs and the BJP 72.

It is believed, Pilot is keen on the CM's post, which he lost to Ashok Gehlot after the Congress's 2018 victory in state polls. The BJP, however, says Pilot needs to bring down the government if he wants the top post. Pilot on Sunday claimed that the Gehlot government is in minority as over 30 Congress MLAs have "pledged support" to him.

Impose tax on the wealthy

More than 80 millionaires urge govts around the world

AFP, London

More than 80 millionaires yesterday urged governments around the world to tax the super-wealthy much more to help fund the global recovery from the coronavirus outbreak.

In an open letter, the group, calling themselves "Millionaires for Humanity", said they should be taxed higher, "immediately, substantially, permanently".

Signatories, included Ben and Jerry's ice cream co-founder Jerry Greenfield, the screenwriter Richard Curtis and filmmaker Abigail Disney, US entrepreneur Sidney Topol and New Zealand retailer Stephen Tindall.

"As COVID-19 strikes the world, millionaires like us have a critical role to play in healing our world," the letter read.

"No, we are not the ones caring for the sick in intensive care wards. We are not driving the ambulances that will bring the ill to hospitals. We are not restocking grocery store shelves or delivering food door to door.

"But we do have money, lots of it. Money that is desperately needed now and will continue to be needed in the years ahead, as our world recovers from this crisis."

The letter was published before the forthcoming meeting of G20 finance ministers.

The "Millionaires for Humanity" letter was a collaboration between groups including Oxfam, Tax Justice UK and the Patriotic Millionaires of high-net worth US individuals.

Taliban attack on Afghan intel office kills 10

REUTERS, KABUL

Taliban militants clashed with security forces following a car bomb blast at a government compound in northern Afghanistan yesterday, killing ten people and wounding dozens more, officials said.

The attack took place at a government facility in Samangan province's capital Aybak close to an office of the National Security Directorate, the main intelligence agency.

"It's a complex attack that started with a car bomb," said Mohammad Sediq Azzizi, a spokesman for the provincial government. The attack ended after four gunmen died following clashes with Afghan security forces, he added.

Abdul Latif Ibrahim, Samangan's governor, said ten security members were killed and 54 people, including civilians, were wounded.

In a statement, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project
Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212

No. DGHS/PD/COVID-19 REAP/Consultant/16/2020/33

Date: 12 July 2020

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Consultancy Services for the Position of Financial Management Consultant (Individual, National), (Package: IC-3)

- The Directorate General of Health Services of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been allocated public funds from the development budget of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) and financed by GOB and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of COVID 19 Response Emergency Assistance Project (CREAP) and, intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds under the ADB's Loan No. 3819-BAN, to eligible payments to the selected consultant under the consultancy services for Financial Management Consultant (Individual, National).
- The COVID-19 Response Emergency Assistance Project (the project) will support the Government of Bangladesh in addressing the immediate and urgent needs for financial, logistical and systemic support to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. The project is an integral and vital part of the National Preparedness and Response Plan for containment, mitigation and management of COVID-19. The project will support the procurement of equipment and supplies, the upgrading of health and testing facilities, and build system and community capacities for surveillance, prevention and response to COVID-19. The PIU will carry out the emergency procurement of the project. PIU may take support from the Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) of the MOHFW for procurement of selected goods and the Public Works Department (PWD) of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works for civil works. The loan proceeds will be disbursed in accordance with ADB's Loan Disbursement Handbook (2017, as amended from time to time and detailed arrangements agreed upon between the government and ADB. ADB's disbursement procedures (direct payment, reimbursement, commitment and/or advance fund procedure) will be used for withdrawal of project funds.
- The project will engage One National Financial Management Consultant as per requirement of TOR. The duration of the assignment is continuously for 24 (Twenty-four) person-months. It is expected that the services will commence tentatively from August, 2020. The detailed TOR for this assignment is available on ADB's CSRN or CMS website (csrn.adb.org or cms.adb.org) and DGHS website (<https://www.dghs.gov.bd>). The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained by contacting to the office of the Project Director during regular office hours or can be requested to the email pdcreap@ld.dghs.gov.bd.
- DGHS now invites eligible National Individual Consultant to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for providing the required services. The interested consultant may obtain further information from ADB's CMS and, if necessary, by applying to the address below during regular office hour. The national specialist shall be the citizen of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- EOI must be submitted in standard template through ADB's Consultant Management System (CMS) at <http://cms.adb.org> along with detailed CV. Only online submission in ADB's CMS will be evaluated.
- A Consultant will be selected using the Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) method in accordance with the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers, 2017. In addition to ADB's eligibility requirements, the short-listing shall be carried out using the following three major criteria corresponding to the EOI Evaluation Template:
 - General qualification
 - Assignment related experience
 - Regional experience and others.
- The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest (EOI) is 11:59pm (Manila local time) on 22 July, 2020 through ADB CMS.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof.

Amirul Hasan 12/7/20

Dr. Md. Aminul Hasan

Director (Hospital), Directorate General of Health Services
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GD-1124

LAW IN-DEPTH

Sketching out the shades of discrimination laws: Colourism in context

PSYME WADUD AND TAHSEEN LUBABA

THE Black Lives Matter campaign inspired informed debates and discussions on racism and colourism across the world. In this backdrop, several notable beauty conglomerates recently decided to remove words like 'white/whitening' and fair/fairness from their products' packs and communication with a view to evolving their skin care portfolio to a more inclusive vision of beauty. This move has resurfaced the debate on whether colour is as much a prohibited ground of discrimination as is race, among several other issues. Race and colour are seemingly overlapping but distinct grounds of discrimination. Although colourism is deeply



PHOTO: KATHMANDUPOST.COM

entrenched in our culture, skin colour is yet to be popularly considered as a prohibited ground of discrimination in Bangladesh. We submit that a creative interpretation of the provisions on discrimination in the Constitution on their own and a reading of the said provisions and international jurisprudence in tandem can accommodate 'colour' as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

Constitution in the Constituent Assembly Debates. Articles 28(1) and 29(2) list 'race' as one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination. The English text gives the impression that 'colour' is not a prohibited ground of discrimination as such. However, the proviso to article 153(3) of the Constitution states that in the event of conflict between the Bengali and the English text, the former shall prevail. The Bengali equivalent for the word race is 'barno', which is inclusive of both 'colour' and 'race'. In an event of conflict between the inclusive expression 'barno' and exclusionary English terminology, 'race', 'barno' shall prevail. This implies that even a very literal interpretation may make room for having colour as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

If such an interpretation fails to stand scrutiny, resort may be made to comparative constitutional law jurisprudence concerning 'discrimination on the basis of unlisted grounds'. As far as such jurisprudence concerns, discrimination based on listed grounds is presumed to be unfair; but no such presumption exists in case of discrimination based on unlisted

grounds. However, in any event when the party having the onus to prove that the discrimination based on any of the unlisted grounds is unfair, succeeds in proving so, his/her claim shall stand [see, *Larbi-Odam v MEC for Education (North-West Province)* (Constitutional Court of South Africa) (1998)]. Additionally, the duty of domestic courts not to straightaway ignore international obligations (as espoused in a number of judicial decisions in Bangladesh) and to let international law fill in for 'vacuum' in domestic law, too can come in play.

While including 'colour' as a ground of discrimination seems an arduous task (if not impossible) in the domestic context, international jurisprudence suggests otherwise. Historically, colour and race were used almost interchangeably. The issue arose while drafting the non-discrimination provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). While one group supported retaining the four original grounds of the UN Charter (i.e. race, sex, language and religion) and understood race to include colour, others raised concerns that race and colour are not concepts that 'necessarily

cover one another'. Ultimately, both race and colour were included as prohibited grounds of discrimination. Both race and colour have been recognised as prohibited grounds in major human rights treaties to which Bangladesh is a party, including International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). General Comment no. 18 of the UN Human Rights Committee notes that some prohibited grounds of the ICCPR are absent in several Constitutions and inquires about the significance of such omission. General Comment no. 31 reaffirms a state party's obligation under article 2 of the ICCPR to adopt legislative, judicial and administrative actions to uphold the rights guaranteed under the Covenant. In the same vein, the Committee in its 2017 Concluding Observations of Bangladesh's initial report reiterates the need for an anti-discrimination law containing a 'comprehensive list of grounds' including colour. The absence of anti-discrimination laws has also been highlighted in multiple observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to Bangladesh's state party reports.

Over the past decades, civil societies and activists have consistently expressed disapproval of the beauty brands and their advertising tactic of portraying dark-skinned women as unattractive, unhappy and professionally unsuccessful individuals. Prohibiting beauty brands from selling skin lightening products may be seen as an encroachment on their business. However, allowing them to air commercials portraying the superiority of a particular skin colour (which in turn creates artificial colour-based hierarchies in society) may not be condoned

either. It is also very difficult to draw a separating line between the effects of manufacturing a skin lightening product and those of its commercials.

Such commercials perpetuate a social stereotype on the basis of colour which, alongside giving birth to many societal evils, tends to have a disproportionate impact across sections of the society who are likely to fall for drastic or immensely unsafe measures for lightening their skin colour. Some countries have adopted specific legislative measures addressing discrimination in advertising. Finland's Consumer Protection Law was amended in 2008 to prohibit discriminatory advertising (on an array of non-exhaustive grounds). A self-regulating ethics council came in place to oversee such matters. Similarly, in India, Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) (Amendment) Bill 2020, has sought to bring skin lightening advertisements within the purview of law.

The recent decision of the beauty brands of renaming their products seems commendable. However, this decision also has the potential of downplaying the societal stereotypes perpetuated over the years. At this point, the issue of letting colourism sustain across generations through commercials and the sale of skin lightening products need to be rethought.

The Anti-Discrimination Bill which is yet to be passed as an Act of parliament in Bangladesh, is drafted in Bangla and uses the expression 'barno'. While upon coming into being as an Act, this bill too may fall short on making business entities compliant by making room for an expansive and inclusive interpretation, a combination of overarching policy guidelines and legislative initiatives may do the job.

THE WRITERS ARE LECTURER IN LAW, BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF PROFESSIONALS AND LL.M STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA, RESPECTIVELY.

THE WRITERS ARE LECTURER IN LAW, BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF PROFESSIONALS AND LL.M STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA, RESPECTIVELY.

LAW VISION

Digital payment system to boost up the operation of virtual courts

MAZHARUL ISLAM

THE Covid-19 crisis has tremendously increased the use of internet and accelerated the digitalisation of many businesses and services through introducing teleworking and video conferencing in different sectors. Just after the outbreak of the coronavirus, many countries having e-readiness took immediate steps to conduct judicial proceedings online. Bangladesh also embarked upon its journey of conducting judicial proceedings through virtual courts on 11 May, 2020.

The initiative of introducing virtual courts has already been praised by many, and to make this initiative more effective, introducing digital payment of fees (chargeable under the Court Fees Act 1870, compensation and fines leviable under the Civil Procedure Code 1908 and the Criminal Procedure Code 1998) applying Mobile Financial Service (MFS) is now felt necessary. Otherwise, the objective of introducing virtual courts may remain incomplete.

During the outbreak of the pandemic, the MFS has turned into one of the major tools of payment for individuals as most of the financial activities have gone online. Moreover, mobile phones are also becoming more accessible across the country and it is time to use these devices to



boost up the economy. According to the BTRC, the total number of mobile phone subscribers has reached 162.920 million at the end of this April, while the number of active internet connections has crossed the landmark of 10 crore this year.

It is to mention that the Court Fees Act, 1870 was amended in 2016 making provision for collection of fees electronically or digitally. According to section 25 of the Act, the government may appoint, in addition to scheduled banks, any MFS providers to receive court fees including fees chargeable for serving and executing processes issued by a certificate-officer in the proceedings in execution of certificates filed for recovery of land revenue or rent collectible in cash, electronically or digitally. In that case, MFS providers who receive fees shall be required to grant a receipt or e-receipt accordingly. The Act also mandates the government to make necessary rules, from time to time, for regulating the collection of such fees through MFS. However, the provision is yet to be implemented.

It is high time the amended provision of the

Act was implemented as transactions through MFS accounts are increasing every year due to the rising acceptance of digital payments by private and public entities. Even amidst this coronavirus outbreak, the MFS was resorted to disburse the stimulus packages announced by the government which include BDT 5,000 crore for payment of salaries of RMG workers and BDT 1,250 crore cash assistance among five million poor families hit hard by the pandemic. According to Bangladesh Bank, through MFS accounts there was average daily transaction of Tk. 1,425.34 and Tk. 1,283.39 crore in February and March of this year respectively and total number of active MFS accounts have reached 26.845 million till March of this year.

In addition to the foregoing, the government may issue directives for collection of compensation, fines, stamp duties and registration fees through MFS which will ensure more revenue collection for the government and contribute to the reduction of corruption as well. If such fees and fines are collected through MFS, litigants will be able to pay fees or fines relating to the suit or case without hassles and the judiciary will be able to make its accounts more transparent.

With the vision of Digital Bangladesh, the use of technology is currently reshaping every government level operation. It is expected that the government will take all necessary measures to introduce digital payment system through MFS accounts in the country's judicial system. Bangladesh Bank has to come up with necessary directives for MFS providers to ease the collection of revenues through MFS accounts. The Supreme Court may also come up with a short-term, mid-term, and long-term action plan to introduce digital payment system in all courts across the country and make virtual courts sustainable.

Though the need for virtual courts only arose due to the unprecedented outbreak of the pandemic, the demand for e-judiciary is long awaited. The law ministry had taken a project worth Tk. 2,690 crore to establish e-judiciary even last year. The abstract idea of stepping into e-judiciary is now seemingly real with the enactment of the new Act. While we cannot predict how long the crisis will last, introduction of digital payment for collection of fees, fines or compensation would make the initiative of virtual court or e-judiciary more effective and successful.

THE WRITER IS CORPORATE LEGAL PRACTITIONER.

LAW REFORM

Need for legal reform to regulate business ethics

K. SHAMSUDDIN MAHMOOD

THE study of business ethics and practices deals with issues like lack of corporate governance, insider trading, rampant practice of bribery, presence of discrimination, absence of corporate social responsibility, etc. At times, law guides the business ethics; but it is the basic framework that businesses may follow to gain public acceptance, and this is where lies the essence of business ethics. Developing ethical standards for businesses is crucial not only for the leaders to act virtuously as an example for the rest of the employees, but also for everyone associated with businesses to be diligent towards enforcement of policies and be realistic. Although, maintaining ethical expectation at all times may not be feasible and rules will inevitably be broken, therefore, the organisations/enterprises need to accept zero tolerance towards unacceptable business behaviours.

Although there exist critics who do not believe in relying in the use of 'law' to evaluate 'ethical standards' of an organisation and tend to say that it cannot be said - if it is legal then it is ethical, or that anything not prohibited by law is obviously proper and ethical or to assume that legal standards articulate or establish ethical principles, since law and rules do not depict what a professional ought to do to be ethical. It is also true that enterprises/organisations that lay the framework for business ethics in all features of operation are more likely to become and remain profitable than those who conduct their business in an unethical manner. Statistics from the last two decades have been quite enlightening as it has been seen that businesses succumb to core ethical standards impacting not only their immediate shareholders but also the industries and entire economy of the country. However, in the last decade or so, the responses from the business community towards violation and breaches of integrity are growing wider and stronger, which is encouraging as societies or for that matter companies are creating better ways to address the issues of eroding values, integrity and ethics. Anyways, the bottom line remains, for long term sustainability to a great extent depends on policies, standards and the legislative support, i.e., legal enactments, statute and rules towards the framework



of business environment.

In Bangladesh, the failure of legislative support towards effective good governance has resulted significantly for lack of business ethics and unsatisfactory culture of corporate social responsibility. Enterprises in private sector is busy in earning profit ignoring question of responsible behaviour by not bothering to earn trust and respect of their consumers/customers; issues like sell of adulterated products, asking exorbitant prizes, capitalising certain product name and goodwill, fraudulent practices in weight and measurement, hoarding to earn profit with dishonest intentions are all such phenomena that signify the present scenario of business world in the country.

Leaving aside the laws relating to companies/corporations where huge capitals are invested and also, some statutory provisions/requirements as well as social dicta do exist to encourage a culture that would further the practice of ethics and corporate social responsibility, the reality under the Partnership Act, 1932 is not at all congenial, rather to certain extent demoralising. The legal framework towards Rules on Conduct in the management of partnership business as contained under Chapter III and IV of the 1932 Act fails to demonstrate whether at all the legislature had any good intention to integrate ethics and social business etiquette as business standards, strategies and goals behind

the back of their head while making the law.

A review of the scheme as envisaged under sections 9-16 of the Act (in terms of broad headings of partners' rights and liabilities, rules of conduct for partners while participating in management of their business and concerns of mutual rights and liabilities) does not demonstrate any concerns for ethical behaviors of partners, or for that matter, 'aspects of social responsibility' of the entrepreneurs. Rather sections 12, 13 and 16 explicitly allow partners to determine their internal business environment freely 'as they like', since the above sections are all subject to contracts that partners may choose to decide, thereby possibly ignoring the prescribed legal requirements that were contemplated by the legislature.

The above observations may, to certain extent, be acceptable for the reason that the 1932 Act is an age old law of British period, and hence, the legislature could not contemplate modern expectations of business ethics and corporate social responsibility to be incorporated in the law. Almost 75 years have passed and modernity in business practices now demand the law to be amended to accommodate or totally be reformed (as Companies Act, 1913 was done) to incorporate present-day views of ethical practices and corporate social responsibility.

THE WRITER IS PROFESSOR & DEAN, SCHOOL OF LAW, BRAC UNIVERSITY.

Child marriage has spiked during the pandemic

Monitoring and enforcement of law must be more vigorous

ACCORDING to a telesurvey report conducted by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), child marriage has sharply increased. MJF found 462 girls being married off in June, and 170 girls getting married in May. With families becoming poorer due to job losses and schools being closed, push factors have driven up the number of child marriages and this will likely continue if no interventions are made.

Poverty is a major driver of child marriage, but other factors include the illegal but widespread practice of giving dowry (where the younger the bride, the less will be the burden of dowry on the girl's family), and the general failure of the state to provide security to girls and women. Despite education being free till secondary school, girls are forced into marriage due to these factors. Growing awareness of the ills of child marriage have inspired organisations, public officials and law enforcers to stop child marriages, but these efforts have been too few and far between to make a major impact.

According to Unicef, Bangladesh has the fourth highest rate of child marriage in the world. This is hardly in line with our Sustainable Development Goals, which includes eliminating child, early and forced marriage by 2030. We are a signatory of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and have our own Child Marriage Restraint Act that stipulates 18 years to be the minimum age of marriage for a girl. But the introduction of a special provision in the law that allows child marriage in "special circumstances" has created a legal loophole that allows parents and guardians to marry off their daughters long before they reach 18.

There is little doubt that child marriage is detrimental to society in every way. Children are robbed of their childhood, subjected to sexual violence, undergo risky pregnancies and deliveries and may even die during childbirth. They also have underweight babies who may either die early or be stunted for life.

On paper, Bangladesh is in total agreement that child marriage is an evil that needs to be eliminated. But in practice, the government and society in general has not done enough to remove this malaise, which is likely to get worse in the coming months. The government must therefore jumpstart its national plan of action to end child marriage, with special monitoring mechanisms during this pandemic. This means building greater awareness through media campaigns and enforcement of anti dowry and anti child marriage laws. The special provision that allows for child marriage must be removed. Religious leaders must be brought on board to help in this fight against child marriage. Public officials and law enforcers must all be part of this endeavour so that all members of society recognise child marriage as an evil to be removed permanently in the best interests of our nation.

High positive cases despite low testing is bad news

Extensive testing and enforcement of health guidelines are crucial

A recent report in this daily shows that the coronavirus positivity rate in the country has soared in the last few days, despite a decline in the number of tests during this period. Frighteningly, the rate was 24.11 percent—the highest single-day positivity rate since the first case was detected on March 8, while the total number of infections in the country stood at 1,83,795 during the time of the report. The data gathered suggest that the transmission of the virus is declining in the urban zones but is on the rise in rural areas. These facts and figures hardly give us the true picture of the spread of the virus.

As we have repeated ad nauseum, without widespread testing, we will never be able to gauge the trend of the virus. It is deeply concerning that the number of Covid-19 tests has dropped significantly in recent weeks after the government imposed fees—Tk 200 (if samples are given to dedicated sample collection booths or public hospitals) and Tk 500 (if samples are collected from home)—on the tests from the beginning of this month. It is obvious that such a decision will surely be discouraging for the general public, especially the poor. At a time when it is crucial to conduct mass testing in every possible community, putting a price tag on it hardly seems wise. This means fewer people will get tested although the trend shows that more and more people are infected, resulting in infected individuals unknowingly spreading it to others. Unless people are tested and contact tracing is done with isolation and treatment for those who test positive, how the pandemic will be contained remains a mystery.

As we struggle with the worst public health crisis in the history of our nation, the government ought to boost up vigorous testing immediately—for free. It is important, moreover, that test reports are provided quickly so that appropriate actions can be taken. The government should identify hotspots, monitor the cases, systematically implement contact tracing and keep an accurate record of positive cases. Mass testing should continue uninterrupted. Better knowledge of the ground realities can guide us to take the most effective measures in tackling Covid-19.



C R ABRAR

will surely return home."

This was the ardent appeal of Sharifah Shakirah, who fled to Malaysia from Buthidaung township in Myanmar at the age of six. Sharifah was joined by four other Rohingya youth at an eSymposium on June 9 to share their experiences of the Covid-19 situation in their respective countries of asylum.

The Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the lives and livelihoods of people all over the world. It has disproportionately harmed the marginalised—refugees, asylum seekers and the stateless people. The Rohingya survivors of Myanmar's genocide are no exception.

Rohingyas living in Burma are being subjected to state sponsored stigmatisation after the outbreak of Covid-19. Although so far one Rohingya and two Rakhines have been infected, the local authorities and the media are engaged in a hate campaign against the Rohingya, claiming "Bengalis", the slur word for Rohingya, have entered Myanmar illegally and have brought coronavirus with them. This has resulted in a sharp increase in hate speech against the Rohingya on Burmese social media.

The conditions of the Rohingyas in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Burma are particularly dire. With a plethora of discriminatory restrictions, famine like conditions prevail in northern Rakhine. In violation of the explicit order of the International Court of Justice to protect the Rohingya, the Burmese government continues to pursue its genocidal policies against them, causing internal displacement of thousands. Many more are forced to flee to Bangladesh and the other countries of south-east Asia.

There are more than one million Rohingyas in Bangladesh, 300,000 in Saudi Arabia, 150,000 in Malaysia, 30,000 in India and tens of thousands more scattered across the world. The refugee camps have very rudimentary facilities and are almost never well resourced. The lockdown has increased the suffering of the residents as problems of water supply, shelter repair and food supply appear, and health care services dwindle. Most Rohingyas in informal camps and shanties in urban settings live in crowded conditions, with poor water and sanitation facilities. All these make them particularly vulnerable to Covid-19.

A large number of Rohingyas have to fend for themselves and work as wage labourers in the informal sector. The lockdowns and the overall economic slowdown have robbed them of livelihood opportunities and pushed them into an abyss of malnutrition and hunger. The absence of any social protection mechanism has further exposed them to coronavirus infection and other diseases.

Hundreds of Rohingyas are passing a dreadful time in detention camps, many for years. Bereft of any contact with their loved ones, most cannot secure legal support. Scores of cases exist in which Rohingyas who served out their sentences still remain incarcerated, as authorities deny their release since Burma is not



HABIBULLAH KARIM

IN the last four months, the country has been swept up in the shadowy spectre of the coronavirus, snuffing the life out of our near and dear ones before their time. Lockdowns, sanitisers, face masks and social distancing have dominated public discourses of late.

In all this gloom and despair, the news of university students and recent graduates from Bangladesh winning two of the top six awards at the recently concluded International Blockchain Olympiad held in Hong Kong is truly a breath of fresh air.

Blockchain is a very new technology that gained traction globally after Bitcoin—the very first cryptocurrency in the world based on the freshly-minted blockchain technology paradigm—debuted in 2009. Today, there are hundreds of use-cases of blockchain implementation, not just in crypto or digital currencies, but in everything from supply chain provenances, self-sovereign identities, user-centric medical records and

willing to take them back. Curtailment of physical movement even within the refugee communities, mistreatment, threats of reduction of food or forcible relocation to uninhabited natural disaster prone sites, and sustained policies of internet ban in some states, have been of major concern to the members of the Rohingya community.

Refugees and asylum-seeking Rohingyas are being subjected to various forms of exploitation. Those who can still find work may have to work longer hours with reduced wages, and face degrading treatment. The condition of women and children is distressing. The presence of men at home for most of the day, compounded with additional stresses and strains, makes women vulnerable to domestic violence. The prolonged closure of counselling and legal aid clinics due to Covid-19 has further limited their ability to seek support.

Hate crimes against the Rohingyas in different countries have been widely reported. Often such stigmatisation, hate crime and xenophobia are state condoned and echo the genocidal ideology of Myanmar, the principal perpetrator of



"What these youth want is to thrive as human beings, to realise their innate potentials, not merely to survive."

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

genocide.

All these conditions are propitious for human traffickers. Anecdotal evidence indicates that, taking advantage of the worsening condition of the Rohingyas in Covid-19 situation, trafficking and human smuggling syndicates have bolstered their operations to aggressively recruit Rohingyas in distress, both in Arakan and in countries of asylum. Currently, the region is experiencing the plight of the Rohingyas drifting on traffickers' boats with little food, drinking water or energy supplies in the Andaman Sea and the South China Sea. Torture, rape and degrading treatment are rife in the boats. These are stark examples of the Rohingyas' predicament, who have been subjected to both border closures by states and extortion by the traffickers. One panelist noted "in Myanmar, Rohingyas have no future and lead a sub-human life. They are forced to take help of traffickers to escape the atrocious conditions at home". Another made a fervent plea for the world

to understand that "being refugees is not our choice; circumstances compel us to move to other lands".

The panelists regretted that most states and international actors continue to ponder to the genocidal Burmese state and refuse to acknowledge Rohingyas "as Rohingyas", refrain from calling mass atrocities and crimes against the Rohingya "as genocide" and decline to term people fleeing genocide by crossing borders "as refugees". Needless to say, these acts of omission are nothing less than condoning genocide.

The Rohingya community is disappointed that they are left out of the decision making processes that involve their life and their future. Projects for refugees are designed by national and international bureaucrats, without any input of the community, nor is there any independent assessment about their efficacy. The publicly funded "big organisations do not consult us. They sign secret agreements without our knowledge and they make covert plans about our future with the country that committed genocide against us", noted the Coordinator of Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC).

communities after their eventual return home, then all Rohingya children and youth ought to be given the opportunity to develop their human potentials by arranging their access to appropriate education and skill development. There is an urgent need by all quarters (host states, donor agencies, intergovernmental actors and NGOs) to recognise the community's agency and create opportunities for self-empowerment and entrepreneurship. This will reduce the pressure on the host countries and international actors, as well as prepare the community members for their eventual reintegration in Arakan after their return to Myanmar.

The Rohingya members acknowledged the adverse impact of the refugee flow on the host communities and economic and environmental costs that countries like Bangladesh have to bear. They felt Burma should be made to pay appropriate reparation to the countries that are adversely affected by its actions, contributing to the refugee flow and incurring huge costs: social, economic and environmental.

Highlighting the ignominy that refugees and asylum seekers often have

to endure, one panelist reminded the audience that they too once had homes, went to school and owned property. She said "we are not objects of charity, what we need is support. Please understand we are human beings and like you, we have dreams and aspirations". The message was loud and clear. What these youth want is to thrive as human beings, to realise their innate potentials, not merely to survive.

Almost at the end of the conversation, a panelist posed a question to the audience—"what would you do if your own country denied you your rightful claim to citizenship and documentation and forcibly expelled you from your ancestral land?"

Perhaps the time has come for us to place ourselves in Rohingyas' shoes and view the world from their perspective.

C R Abrar is an academic. He is the Coordinator of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU). Abrar acknowledges the insights gained from Sharifah Shakirah, Hafsa Tameesuddin, Nay San Lwin, Ali Johar and Sujuddin Karimuddin at the RMMRU-FRC eSymposium on Covid 19 and Rohingyas held on 9 June.

INTERNATIONAL BLOCKCHAIN OLYMPIAD 2020

The youth of Bangladesh shine on the world stage

even Covid-19 contact and tracing. For those interested in blockchain, a primer on this new technology can be found in an earlier column printed in this daily under the title "Blockchain: Ticket to universality of truths?"

It is absolutely astounding that Bangladesh could join this select group of countries that competed on the international stage to showcase real-world applications of blockchain and bring home two of the top awards on its maiden attempt. To be specific, the International

organising the event to promoting it and conducting the competition to even holding the award ceremony—everything was done online leveraging all the platforms at the disposal of society today. Emails, Facebook Messenger, Google Meet, Online Portal, WhatsApp, Zoom—the whole alphabet soup of modern tools and apps were put to effective use in planning, mobilising and conducting all aspects of the Blockchain Olympiad Bangladesh fully online, with participation from more than 450

in overcoming the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 12 teams that were finally nominated by the Blockchain Olympiad Bangladesh organising committee to compete in the International Blockchain Olympiad held on July 3 to July 5 in Hong Kong, were intensively mentored and coached by nearly 30 top government, business and academic professionals over a period of one month. This helped the contestants improve and fine-tune their projects to the point where all 12 of them were awarded the certificate of merit—the only country to have been thus recognised.

The outstanding success of the young blockchain enthusiasts with some nudging from the professional elders proved once again that given the opportunity and right kind of guidance, our youth can compete with the best in the world and hold their own.

Now we need to nurture such world-winning projects for professional deployment in our own soil, so that these very talented young minds don't have to seek opportunities elsewhere for realising their potentials and dreams.

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Now we need to nurture such world-winning projects for professional deployment in our own soil, so that these very talented young minds don't have to seek opportunities elsewhere for realising their potentials.

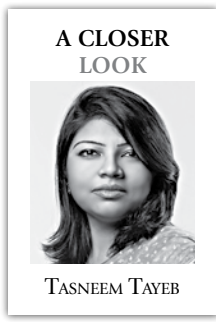
Blockchain Olympiad itself is only three years old, which is organised by the City University of Hong Kong in partnership with the Hong Kong Blockchain Society.

Though new to this field, Bangladesh marked a historic milestone when it held its first national blockchain Olympiad in April this year, bypassing the pandemic lockdowns by going fully online. From

students and recent graduates from all parts of the country and the involvement of more than 60 organisers, jurors and mentors from diverse professions in government, academia and the industry. The Blockchain Olympiad Bangladesh has certainly been a trendsetter in fully-online operations that has already encouraged many other entities to adopt this method

Habibullah Karim is the founder of Technohaven Co Ltd, a co-founder of BASIS and the coordinator of Blockchain Olympiad Bangladesh.

What do we do with the refuse of our Covid-19 afflicted healthcare system?



A CLOSER LOOK
TASNEEM TAYEB

MANAGEMENT of medical waste has remained a persistent problem for Bangladesh. Proper disposal of these wastes—general, infectious, hazardous, radioactive, and often containing pathogens—has never seemed to be taken

seriously by the authorities, resulting in rampant mishandling by all concerned. This newspaper has published numerous lead stories on this over the last few years, and written dozens of editorials, but these seem to fall on deaf ears. And while the hazards posed by mishandling of medical waste are myriad and dangerous, they have been exacerbated by the ongoing global health emergency, putting millions of lives at risk of contamination.

Although according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), any healthcare facility must have an incinerator, autoclave and effluent treatment plants to dispose of hazardous medical waste, in reality, only a few do. The operational ability of many of these facilities are also questionable at best. Let's take the case of Rajshahi for example, as pointed out in a report published on December 22, 2019, titled "Inaction making situation worse". While there are 205 healthcare centres in Rajshahi, there is only one incinerator, and that too in derelict condition—in fact, its chimney had broken down at the time the report was published. Even with a fixed chimney, the efficiency of the venerable incinerator remains uncertain—its burning capacity having fallen to 300 degree celsius from the required 3,000, as mentioned in the report.

Covid-19 has made the task even more difficult, for many reasons. First of all, the volume of medical waste has increased significantly in the wake of the ever-spreading pandemic, and so have the kinds of medical waste. According to the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), 14,500 tonnes of medical waste had been generated in the month of April alone in Bangladesh. Personal protective gear—especially masks, gloves and other one-time use items, featured prominently among the waste.

The problem is, these items are often not considered as medical waste—these items are after all "casually worn" by people to keep the germs at bay, and are equally casually dumped on the sidewalks, on the roads and in the open dustbins, like candy wrappers. A picture published by this daily a few weeks ago, showed a PPE casually discarded near the Corona-isolation unit of DMCH. Used masks and gloves were floating on a fountain there. These images are symptomatic of the lack of understanding among PPE users of the significance of proper medical waste management, and perhaps even their apathy towards the issue.

Moreover, as reported by a local newspaper recently, some hospitals dump their medical waste in their backyards to be rid of them. These are later picked up by waste collectors—often young children who pick these up with their bare hands, gloves and masks being luxury items for them—and transported to Matuail Landfill, near Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, in small open vans or sometimes in garbage trucks. Scraps falling from these open vans or garbage trucks are not an uncommon scenario in Bangladesh, but while these are unpleasant sights under normal circumstances, they can be deadly during a pandemic.

But there is another side to this problem, a more sinister one: at a time of high market demand, discarded masks, gloves and empty bottles of hand sanitisers become valuable commodities, often traded on the black market and resold to the public, creating a greater risk of mass infection. According to

news reports, one such "trader" has been apprehended by law enforcers, but there might be others out there right now, selling used surgical masks, gloves, and fake hand sanitisers to innocent buyers in the streets.

At times, hospital authorities themselves become involved in the illegal trading of medical waste. In a report titled "Hospitals breach disposal rules", printed by this daily late last year, it was reported that "The main reason behind lack of proper disposal is that used plastic items can fetch money from the

Unable to deal with the surmounting volume of medical waste, some healthcare facilities are resorting to burning it out in the open, resulting in exposure of the people living in surrounding areas to the toxicity in the air released by the inappropriate burning of medical waste. Incinerators are recommended for burning medical waste for a reason, but only a few deign to care.

There is a set of "rules" to manage medical waste—the Medical Waste (Management and Processing) Rules 2008—

authorities to deal with this persistent problem that had led to its snowballing, especially in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak. We are in the middle of a pandemic and medical waste will only pile up in the weeks and months to come. The government, with whatever resources are available at its disposal, need to take immediate steps to address the situation before it endangers further lives.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have issued clear guidelines on how medical waste should be managed during Covid-19. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has also published a "Compendium of Technologies for Treatment/Destruction of Healthcare Waste" to support relevant authorities in fighting this other menace.

The authorities in Bangladesh should immediately form a committee consisting of medical experts, epidemiologists, environmentalists and legal experts to review the existing rules related to medical waste management and update them to face the emerging challenges posed by the upward trajectory of the pandemic.

Developed countries are now grappling to cope with the piling medical waste generated by Covid-19. And for Bangladesh, the situation is likely to get worse from here. Effective and immediate measures are now required to address this issue. The authorities need to learn from the best practices from countries that have already overcome the first phase of the pandemic, such as China and South Korea, and take inputs from the guidelines issued by WHO, ADB and UNEP, to prepare revised guidelines for Bangladesh. And of course, we need to ensure their strict implementation to make sure lives are not lost due to causes that could have been prevented. Our words are only as good as our actions.



PHOTO: STAR

recycling businesses. While recycling without any harm to public health and environment is permissible, hospital records and evidence collected by *The Daily Star* point to the fact that even medical items made of plastic end up in the black market in connivance with the hospitals' authorities." While this is alarming even under usual circumstances, during a pandemic this can become fatal, putting hundreds and thousands of lives at risk.

but it seems they are not being followed properly. For one, one of the rules suggest that "medical waste could not be mixed with other waste at any stage—while producing inside hospitals, while collecting from hospitals, while transporting, and would be processed separately based on classification". If we look around carefully, we would see the contrary mostly.

Perhaps it is the lack of political will on the part of the policymakers and concerned

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is: @TayebTasneem

Financialisation: Tackling the other virus

JOMO KWAME SUNDARAM and MICHAEL LIM MAH HUI

THE 1971 Bretton Woods (BW) system collapse opened the way for financial globalisation and transnational financialisation. Before the 1980s, most economies had similar shares of trade and financial openness, but cross-border financial transactions have been increasingly unrelated to trade since then.

Although Covid-19 recessions have rather different causes and manifestations from the financially driven crises of recent decades, financialisation continues to constrain, shape and thus stunt government responses with deep short-, medium- and long-term consequences.

It is thus necessary to revisit and contain the virus of financialisation wreaking long-term havoc in developing, especially emerging market economies. No one is financing work on a vaccine, while all too many with influence seek to infect us all as the virus is touted as the miracle cure to contemporary society's deep malaise, rather than exposed for the threats it actually poses.

Global financialisation has spread, deepened and morphed with a changing cast of banks, institutional investors, asset managers, investment funds and other shadow banks. Transborder financialisation has thus been transforming national finance and economies.

The changing preferences of financial market investors have been reshaping the uneven spread of market finance across assets, borders, currencies and regulatory regimes. To preserve and enhance their value, new financial asset classes and relationships have been created.

Within borders, banks and shadow banks are lending to households, companies and one another, while national frontiers do not matter for securities and derivative markets, often financed via wholesale money markets.

Over the last four decades, the scope, size and concentration of finance have grown

and changed as mainly national regulatory authorities try to keep up with recent financial innovations and their typically transnational consequences.

Financialisation has involved reorganising finance, the economy, and even aspects of society, to enable investors to get more from financial market investments, effectively undermining sustainable growth, full employment and fairer wealth distribution. The following measures should help slow

Multilateral cooperation to strengthen effective and equitable regulation will be difficult to secure as voting power in the only multilateral institution, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), remains heavily biased against developing countries.

financialisation and limit some of its adverse effects.

Strengthen international financial regulation: While financialisation has become transnational, financial regulation remains largely national, albeit with some transborder effects of the most powerful, e.g., US tax rules and Fed requirements. Transnational finance has often successfully taken advantage of loopholes and "arbitrage" to great profit.

Multilateral cooperation to strengthen effective and equitable regulation will be difficult to secure as voting power in the only

multilateral institution, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), remains heavily biased against developing countries.

Strengthen national capital account management: Transnational financialisation has made developing countries more vulnerable to transnational finance and its rent-gouging practices, while also causing greater instability, and limiting policy space for development.

Although the IMF's Article 6 guarantees the national right to capital account management, all too many national authorities in developing countries, especially emerging markets, have been deterred from exercising their rights effectively.

Improve national regulation of finance: Improving effective, equitable and progressive national regulation of finance, particularly market-based finance, remains challenging, especially in emerging market economies where typically divergent, if not contradictory, banking and capital market interests seek to influence reforms differently in their own specific interests.

Strengthen bank regulation: There were few banking crises from the 1930s to the 1970s after banking was strictly regulated following the 1929 Crash. With financial deregulation from the 1980s, major financial and currency crises have become more frequent. More effective regulation and supervision are urgently needed, not only of banks, but also of "shadow banks", that account for a large and growing share of transnational finance.

Make finance accountable: Instead of improving regulations to achieve these objectives, the growth and greater influence of finance have led to regulatory capture, with reforms enabling, not hindering financialisation, including its adverse consequences. Political financing reforms are also urgently needed to limit the influence of finance in politics.

Promote collective, not asset-based welfare: Financialisation has been enabled by the reduced role of government. Nationalising or

re-nationalising pension funds and improved government "social provisioning" of health, education and infrastructure would reduce the power and influence of institutional investors and asset managers.

Ensure finance serves the real economy: The original and primary role of finance—to provide credit to accelerate productive investments and to finance trade—has been increasingly eclipsed by financial institutions, including banks, engaging in securities and derivatives trading and other types of financial speculation.

Such trading and speculative activities must be subjected to much higher and more appropriate regulatory and capital requirements, with commercial or retail banking insulated from investment or merchant banking activities, e.g., insulating Main Street from Wall Street, or High Street from the City of London, instead of the recent trend towards "universal" banking.

Promote patient banking, not short-termist profiteering: National financial authorities should introduce appropriate incentives and disincentives to encourage banks to finance productive investments and trading activities, and deter them from pursuing higher short-term profits, especially from daily changes in securities and derivatives prices.

This can be achieved with appropriate regulations and deterrent taxes on securities and derivatives financing transactions. An alternative framework for banking and finance should promote long-term investment over short-term speculation, e.g., by introducing an incremental capital gains tax where the rate is higher the shorter the holding period.

Ensure equitable financial inclusion: While financial exclusion has deprived many of the needy of affordable credit, new modes of financial inclusion which truly enhance their welfare must be enabled and promoted. Ostensible financial inclusion could extend exploitative and abusive financial services to those previously excluded. In some emerging market economies, for example,

levels of personal and household debt have risen rapidly, largely due to inclusive finance initiatives.

New financial technologies: Financial houses are profitably using new digital technologies to capture higher rents. While technological innovations can advance financial inclusion and other progressive development and welfare goals, thus far, they have largely served financial rent-gouging and other such exploitive and regressive purposes.

For example, while big data has been used to track, anticipate and stop the spread of infectious diseases, it has also been more commonly abused for commercial and political purposes. National regulators must be vigilant that ostensibly philanthropic foundations and businesses are actively promoting "fintech" in developing countries without sufficient transparency, let alone consideration of its mixed purposes, implications and potential.

Minimise tax avoidance: Besides curtailing and penalising tax avoidance practices at the national level, tax accountants, lawyers and others who greatly enable and facilitate tax evasion and related abuses should be much more effectively deterred.

Strengthen multilateral cooperation to equitably enhance national fiscal capacities: Governments must cooperate better multilaterally to more effectively and equitably tax transnational corporations and high net worth individuals. Such cooperation should effectively check illicit financial flows with strict regulations to deter private banking, banking secrecy, tax havens and other international facilitation of tax evasion.

Existing initiatives need to be far more inclusive of, sensitive to and supportive of developing country governments. OECD led initiatives previously excluded developing countries, but their recent inclusion, while an advance, remains biased against them.

Jomo Kwame Sundaram is a prominent Malaysian economist and academic, and Michael Lim Mah Hui is a prominent Malaysian academic and international banker. This article was originally written for Inter Press Service.

QUOTABLE Quote

LUDWIG VON MISES
(1881-1973)
Austrian-American libertarian economist.

The criterion of truth is that it works even if nobody is prepared to acknowledge it.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Sweeping story
- 5 Return to base
- 10 Annoying fellow
- 12 Make amends
- 13 Assessed
- 14 River crossings
- 15 "Exodus" hero
- 16 Major landing site
- 18 Hotel suite feature
- 20 Salon stuff
- 21 Epps of "House"
- 23 Take advantage of
- 24 Church leader
- 26 Western natives
- 28 Commotion
- 29 Song for one

DOWN

- 1 Scarecrow fill
- 2 In the know
- 3 "Understand?"
- 4 Verb for you
- 5 Roosevelt's successor
- 6 Resting on
- 7 Deviate from
- 8 Strip
- 9 Mortar's mate
- 11 "A Mind to Murder" author
- 17 Pitching stat
- 19 Jazz style
- 22 Decided, as a case
- 24 Roofing gunk
- 25 Facing the audience
- 27 Youngster
- 28 Leave
- 30 Singer Yoko
- 33 Grand, for one
- 34 High points
- 35 Decade parts
- 37 Hightail it
- 38 Early carmaker
- 42 Shirt protector

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BEETLE BAILEY

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

L A R E D O O H I O
I C E D U P C A R D
D E F I N E T R E E
T E N S E D
R A Y S A T L A S
I M A W E B S I T E
S I R E L L N O N
E N D G A M E E M O
S O L A R U S S R
I N S E C T
T E N T A L U M N I
O V E R T U R E E N
E A S Y S E N T O N

BABY BLUES

Bhutto

FROM PAGE 12
The minister further says that it is in the interest of Pakistan to allow the Bangladeshes now stranded in Pakistan to return to Bangladesh.

CMP DC

FROM PAGE 12
died with coronavirus so far.
CMP Commissioner Mahabubor Rahman expressed deep shock at his death.

Global record

FROM PAGE 12
continent are worriedly watching dozens of areas where cases have resurged.
Concerned by a spike in the town of Lerida in Spain's northeastern Catalonia region, officials on Sunday ordered nearly 200,000 residents to stay home in the first such order since the country's lockdown ended on June 21.

But early yesterday, a local court suspended the measure as "contrary to law" despite concerns over the scale of the outbreak -- one of scores being monitored across badly-hit Spain, where the virus has killed more than 28,400 people.
Fears of a second wave forced South Africa to re-impose a nationwide curfew on Sunday, with President Cyril Ramaphosa warning the country faced a "coronavirus storm" that was "far fiercer and more destructive" than any before.

The Philippines also moved to re-impose a two-week lockdown on some 250,000 people in Manila as new infections soared just six weeks after the capital emerged from one of the world's longest lockdowns.
SPIKE ON US BASES IN JAPAN
Meanwhile in Japan, two US Marine bases on Okinawa island have been locked down after a spike in cases with dozens infected and local officials expressing "serious doubts" about the US military's containment efforts.

Bogura-1, Jashore-6

FROM PAGE 12
There will be soaps and hand sanitisers at all polling centres, and all voters will have to use it before and after casting votes, he said, adding that all election officials and voters would be wearing masks.
Voters will stand in line by maintaining a distance of at least three feet. Only one voter will be allowed to enter the polling booth at a time. All polling officials and agents of candidates will perform their duties maintaining proper distance, said the EC senior secretary.

"We have taken necessary steps to hold the elections peacefully," he said.
While answering a question about the possibilities of low voter turnout due to coronavirus scare, Alamgir admitted that there is a chance of fewer people casting the vote.
Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 constituencies fell vacant following the deaths of ruling party lawmakers Abdul Mannan and Ismat Ara Sadique respectively.

The EC in February announced that by-elections to the two constituencies will be held on March 29. But they postponed the polls on March 21, considering the coronavirus situation.
On July 4, the EC said that elections to the two constituencies will be held on July 14.
There are about 5.22 lakh voters in the two constituencies -- 3.17 lakh in Bogura-1 and 2.04 lakh in Jashore-6 -- and voting will begin at 9:00am and continue until 5:00pm without any break.

There are 122 polling centres in Bogura-1 and 79 in Jashore-6.
In Bogura-1 (Sonatala and Sariakandi upazilas), five candidates are vying for the by-election, including AL candidate Shahdara Mannan and Jatiya Party candidate Moksedul Alam.
In Jashore-6 (Keshabpur), two

candidates are vying for the polls -- Shahin Chakladar from the AL and Habibur Rahman Habib from the JP.
The BNP initially decided to take part in both the by-polls and collected nomination papers, but changed its mind and boycotted the elections when the EC declared the election date for the second time on July 4 amid the pandemic.
Locals said campaigns of only AL candidates were visible in the last few days. Many voters said they were not interested to go to the polling centres due to the fear of Covid infections, correspondents of this newspaper reported from Jashore and Bogura.

Flooding in different areas of Bogura-1 may further lower the vote casting rate, said locals. Flood situation in Bogura is worsening again for the last two days.
Mamunur Rashid, 32, a resident of Chakratinath char in Sariakandi upazila, said as they had lost work due to the coronavirus and were dealt another blow by the flood, they could not even think of the election in this situation.
"We are not interested to vote this time amid flood and coronavirus," said Hosneara Begum, 40, of Nawapara char under the same upazila.
EC Secretary Alamgir said 14 polling centers in Sariakandi and Sonatala were shifted elsewhere due to the flood.
Meanwhile, five people, including Intezar Rahman, 68, father of independent candidate in Bogura-1 Eyeasir Rahmatullah Entaz, were held with Tk 7 lakh from in front of Sonatala filling station on Sunday night.
Kudrat-E-Khuda Shuvo, assistant superintendent of police (Shibganj circle), said they were held as they were "spreading black money for the election."

11 die

FROM PAGE 12
The hospital authorities said 11 new patients were admitted to the Covid-19 unit in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. Ten patients were discharged during the period.
At present, there are 118 patients at the unit. Of them, 53 are coronavirus positive and 65 show symptoms.
A total of 1,082 patients have so far admitted to the hospital after the coronavirus outbreak. Of them, 766 have already been released.
In Satkhira, three people died with coronavirus symptoms at Satkhira Medical College Hospital yesterday.
The victims, residents of different parts of the district, were admitted to the hospital with fever and breathing problems, said Manas Kumar Mondal, a physician of the hospital.
Samples of one of the deceased were earlier sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital for test, the physician said, adding that after his death, they got the results that showed the victim was Covid-19 positive.
At least 37 people have so far breathed their last with coronavirus symptoms in the district.
[Our correspondents in Cumilla and Satkhira contributed to this report]

10m kids

FROM PAGE 12
which will see existing inequality explode between the rich and the poor, and between boys and girls."
The charity urged governments and donors to invest more funds behind a new global education plan to help children back into school when it is safe and until then support distance learning.
"We know the poorest, most marginalised children who were already the furthest behind have suffered the greatest loss, with no access to distance learning -- or any kind of education -- for half an academic year," Ashing said.
Save the Children also urged commercial creditors to suspend debt repayments for low-income countries -- a move it said could free up \$14 billion for education programmes.
"If we allow this education crisis to unfold, the impact on children's futures will be long lasting," Ashing said.
"The promise the world has made to ensure all children have access to a quality education by 2030, will be set back by years," she said, citing the United Nations goal.
The report listed 12 countries where children are most at risk of falling behind: Niger, Mali, Chad, Liberia, Afghanistan, Guinea, Mauritania, Yemen, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Ivory Coast.

Flood takes a turn for worse

FROM PAGE 12
In the morning, the Teesta was flowing 52 cm above the danger level at Teesta Barrage point and 64 cm above the danger level at Shimulbari point.
The Brahmaputra was flowing 45 cm above the danger level at Chilmari point in Kurigram yesterday morning, said local WDB officials.
According to the WDB and the Kurigram and Lalmonirhat district administrations, new areas are being flooded every day due to an abnormal rise in the water level of rivers.
Floodwaters have inundated 120 villages in 21 unions of Lalmonirhat's five upazilas. About one lakh people have been affected.
In Kurigram, flood has hit 250 villages in 42 unions of seven upazilas. It has affected about two and a half lakh people.
In Nilphamari, the Teesta was flowing 55 cm above the danger mark at Dalia point near the Teesta Barrage in Dimla upazila at 2:00am yesterday, said WDB.
Rabiul Islam Lithon, chairman of Khagakharibari Union Parishad in Dimla upazila, said flooding has eroded about 80 percent area of Kismoter Char, a shoal of the Teesta.
Tayeb Ali, 60, and his six family members are among the flood victims who have taken shelter on a groin dam across the Teesta. Tayeb said although they were unfed for days, nobody came forward with relief to help them.
In Sunamganj, the Surma was flowing 31 cm above the danger level at Sunamganj point yesterday morning. Over 70,000 families of the district's all 11 upazilas were affected in the last four days, said the district administration.
Flood victims are in distress as the crisis of food and drinking water is deepening.
Dilar Begum, an elderly woman from Hosenpur village in Sunamganj Sadar upazila, said she and her daughter-in-law used to work as day labourer to earn their living after the death of her son.
As they had no work for the last three months due to the Covid-19 situation and there is floodwater in their house now, it has become difficult for her to feed her four grandchildren, she added.

Sunamganj Deputy Commissioner Abdul Ahad said, "We are continuing relief activities and trying to reach every affected people of all villages. No one will be left out of the coverage of the relief activities."
The Sylhet district administration said more than 48,000 families of five upazilas have been affected by flood in the last three days.
Meanwhile, dwellers of around 50 areas in the city have been suffering from waterlogging since Saturday due to rise in water level of the Surma river and poor drainage of rainwater.
A resident of the city's Jamtola area, Pinak Roy said, "The whole area is waterlogged for the last two days. Rainwater has entered my home as well. We are suffering because of the poor drainage system in the area."
In Sirajganj, the Jamuna, which swelled rapidly in the last few days, was flowing above the danger level at Hard Point and Kazipur Point yesterday. Many people have taken shelter in flood protection embankments.
Jahanara Begum from Shuvogacha village in Karipur upazila said, "There is floodwater in my house for about a month. I cannot build a house at a safe place due to poverty. So I have taken shelter on the flood protection embankment with my two cows."
In Gaibandha, over 1.22 lakh people have been affected due to the flood as the Teesta, Brahmaputra and Ghaghat rivers were flowing above the danger level yesterday.
"Water level of these three rivers will increase in the next two days," said Mokhlesur Rahman, executive engineer of the Gaibandha WDB.
In Bogura, over 80,000 people have been hit by the flood as the Jamuna was flowing 46 cm above the danger level at the Sariakandi Mathurapara point yesterday.
In Jamalpur, the overall flood situation was getting worse as the Jamuna was flowing 64 cm above the danger mark at Bahadurabad Ghat point in Dewanganj upazila yesterday.
Over one lakh people, who were hit hard by the first phase of flood a few days ago, have been marooned again.
[Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Bogura, Pabna, Sylhet and Jamalpur contributed to this report]

Crisis may get worse

FROM PAGE 12
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Britain, France agree joint unit to fight migrant traffickers

AFP, Calais
The interior ministers of France and Britain on Sunday signed an agreement creating a new joint police intelligence unit to combat migrant traffickers and reduce the "unsustainable" numbers crossing the Channel illegally.
France's new Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin and his British counterpart Priti Patel met on Sunday in Calais in northern France, a regio where migrants have traditionally gathered in a bid to find a way to get to Britain.
"We signed a new agreement to create a joint intelligence cell which will crack down on gangs behind vile people smuggling operation," Patel wrote on Twitter after the meeting.
She said they had discussed "the unsustainable levels of illegal migration across the Channel."
The Franco-British unit will allow services to share intelligence quickly and will consist of six British and six French police officers based in Coquelles outside Calais, Darmanin told reporters.
Traffickers "are those who take advantage of the human distress of people who want to cross the English Channel and who, no doubt, are not being punished sufficiently at the moment," said Darmanin.

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UK using drones to send test kits

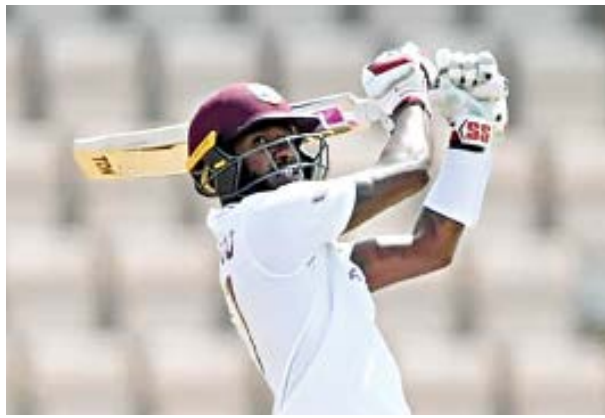
FROM PAGE 12
Skyports along with two other initiatives have been awarded a share of £1.1 million in funding, while the rest is open to bids until the end of September.
The other winners include Isolation+, which uses space-derived data to identify and support vulnerable people.
Stay, another of the projects to be given funding, is an app being developed to help charities supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing.
It uses satellite communications and Earth observation satellites to reward young people with 'badges'

- which will be linked to rewards, discounts or other incentives - for acting positively.
"I'm proud of how our world-leading space sector is stepping up to provide innovative solutions to directly support our amazing NHS, as we continue our national effort to tackling coronavirus", Science minister Amanda said in a statement.
"The projects we are backing today show UK ingenuity at its finest, and will make a real difference to how we use this latest innovative technology to deliver critical healthcare now and long into the future."
"The NHS Long Term Plan is bringing new technologies into

the NHS to improve patient care and save lives, and as we deal with the greatest challenge in the NHS's history, innovation in medicine and convenient, faster technology are helping frontline staff to give people world-leading treatment for Covid-19 alongside care for killer conditions including cancer", Professor Tony Young, the NHS national clinical lead for innovation, also said.
As well as delivering coronavirus tests, Skyports also intends to "[buy] up London rooftops for the burgeoning drone delivery market."
The company believes that "vertiports" will be as common as parking spaces for cars and bikes.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
১) মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ/সংস্থা ১ যাত্রা ও পরিবহন কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, যাত্রা সেবা বিভাগ।
২) সন্থা/সন্থাসমূহের নাম ও ঠিকানা ১ রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর), মহাখালী, ঢাকা।
৩) দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্র ও তারিখ ১ স্বরক নং-আইইডিসিআর/রাজস্ব/পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্ন কর্মী/সুইপার/ট্রিনার নিয়োগ/২০২০-২০২১/৬৯২ তারিখ ১২.০৭.২০২০খ্রিঃ
৪) দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ ১ ১৩.০৭.২০২০খ্রিঃ
৫) দরপত্র পদ্ধতি ১ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৬) অর্থের উৎস ১ রাজস্ব বাজেট (জিএফবি)।
৭) দরপত্র সিদ্ধিউলের মূল্য ১ প্রতি সেট ৭৫০/- টাকা (সেভেনহুন্ড্রেডটোশা)।
৮) দরপত্রের সিদ্ধিউলের সন্থা পদ্ধতি ১ প্রতিপালক, রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর), মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ এর কার্যকর কোড-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ যাতে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের অধীনস্থ যে কোন কর্মসিদ্ধি ব্যাংক ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমাভানপূর্বক চালানের সুবিধা দাখিল করে অত্র কার্যালয়ের কাশিয়ারের নিকট হতে ২৯.০৭.২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যক্রমে অফিস চালুকালীন সময়ে সিদ্ধিউল প্রদান করা যাবে।
৯) দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ, স্থান ও সময় ১ ৩০.০৭.২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রতিপালক, আইইডিসিআর এর অফিস কক্ষ এবং অত্রাঙ্গ কর্মকর্তার অফিস কক্ষ, বনানী থানা, বনানী, ঢাকা।
১০) দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলযোগ্য কাগজপত্রের বিবরণ ১ দরপত্রদাতাকে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রাদির ছায়াছবিপি ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
ক) ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (সেরতযোগ্য) আমানত হিসেবে জমা দিতে হবে, খ) দরপত্রের সাথে জনবল সরবরাহকারী হিসেবে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, গ) আয়কর পরিশোধ সনদ, ঘ) সিভিলিয়াল আর্ট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ঙ) অর্থিক বছরসমাপ্ত সনদপত্র। এছাড়া অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিদ্ধিউলে উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে।
১১) দরপত্র খোলার স্থান ১ সত্যকক্ষ, রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর), মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
১২) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় ১ ৩০.০৭.২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ২.৩০ ঘটিকা। উল্লেখ্য, দরদাতা প্রতিদাতাদের প্রতিদিনির্দেশে উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত কমিটি (ট্রিভিউ) কর্তৃক দরপত্র খোলা হবে। ঐ দিন যদি সরকারি ছুটি হয়, তাহলে পরবর্তী কার্যক্রমে একই সময়ে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
১৩) দরপত্র/সিদ্ধিউল বিবরণী
পদের নাম ও বিবরণ মেট্রি পদ সংখ্যা ব্যয় শিফট/পদ মেয়াদ অতিরিক্ত ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা
পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী (সুইপার/ট্রিনার) ৯ (নয়) জন সর্বনিম্ন ১৮ (আঠারো) হতে অধিক ৩০ (যেট) বছর সমামানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ
১৪) অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী
ক) সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সর্ব সাক্ষ্য বেতন ১৭,৬১০/- X ৯ = ১,৫৮,৪৯০/- (মাসিক বেতন)।
খ) আয়কর/ছোট সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক।
গ) সার্ভিস চার্জ (সরকারি বিধি অনুযায়ী ০% এর নিচে হবে)।
ঘ) সফল দরদাতা প্রতিদাতাকে কার্যসম্পন্ন প্রার্থী ও (তিন) কর্মসিদ্ধির মধ্যে যথাসময়ে জনবল সরবরাহ করা হবে, মর্মে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকার নন-রুজিপিঙ্গল স্ট্যাম্পের সূত্রিদ্বারা স্বাক্ষরকরতঃ প্রতিপালক, আইইডিসিআর এর অফিসে দাখিল করতে হবে।
ঙ) দরপত্রের সাথে মেট্রি পদের অতিরিক্ত ২০% সহ (মেট্রি ১১ জন) পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মীর জীবন বৃত্তান্ত (ছবিসহ), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সনদ, নাগরিকত্ব সনদ, স্বামী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে।
চ) দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম "The Public Procurement Act-2008" ও "The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" এবং "আউটসোর্সিং (Outsourcing) প্রক্রিয়া সনদসমূহ" নিয়ন্ত্রিত হবে।
ছ) অটোপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র সনদসিদ্ধি বাতিল বন্দি গণ্য হবে।
জ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে শর্তাবলী ছাড়াই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র পূর্ণ/আংশিক গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৫) চুক্তিপত্র সম্পাদন
১ সফল দরপত্রদাতাকে পুঙ্খ নুয় কার্যক্রমসমূহ মূল্যের নিপঞ্জিতে ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট, কার্যসম্পন্ন প্রার্থী ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিম্নোক্তকর্তার দ্বারা সত্যায়িত করা দিতে হবে।
অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মীরজাদী সুলতানা সুলতানা
পরিচালক
ফোন নম্বর ০২-৯৮৪২৭০

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation
Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)
1 Ministry/Division Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/Road Transport and Highways Division.
2 Agency Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC).
3 Procuring entity name Chairman, BRTC.
4 Expressions of Interest for Selection of Consulting Firm (National).
5 Title of Service Consulting service for details planning, structural, architectural & electrical drawing with estimation, plumbing, interior design, BOQ, tender documents, supervision, monitoring of BRTC.
6 EOI No. BRTC/EOI/01/2019-20
7 Procurement sub-method Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
8 Budget and source of funds Own fund of BRTC.
9 Place of document selling Construction Department (7th Floor), Paribahan Bhaban, 21, Rajuk Avenue, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.
10 Price of document Tk 2000.
11 Place of document submission Construction Department (7th Floor), Paribahan Bhaban, 21, Rajuk Avenue, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.
12 Place of document opening Construction Department (7th Floor), Paribahan Bhaban, 21, Rajuk Avenue, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.
13 Last selling date & time 12/08/2020, up to 5.00pm.
14 Submission date & time 13/08/2020, up to 3.00pm.
15 Opening date & time 13/08/2020, 3.30pm.
16 Brief description of assignment Details planning, structural, architectural & electrical drawing with estimation, plumbing, interior design, BOQ, tender documents, supervision, monitoring with a view to ensure the quality for construction of office building (Head Office & other), multi-storied commercial building (at least 10-storied), residential building (at least 10-storied), hostel building, store room/building, rest house, modernization of existing bus & truck depot with parking facilities, modernization of existing training institute & training centre, modernization of existing workshop, repair & maintenance of existing head office building and other buildings.
17 Experience, resources and delivery capacity required Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the same. Brochures, description of similar assignment & experience certificate have to be submitted. The documents also include: i) Up-to-date valid trade licence, ii) VAT registration, iii) Up-to-date income tax certificate, iv) Registration of firm, v) Turnover of the consulting firm, vi) Available of key professionals, vii) At least 10 years' experience of the firm in similar & other works.
18 Other details i) Consultants should be short listed in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules 2008. ii) The firm must have the experience of all kinds of drawing, design, supervision, quality assurance experience of similar nature of works.
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.
Md. Nurul Absar Bhuiyan
DGM (Works)
Construction Department, BRTC
GD-1130



WHAT THEY SAID

First game after the break belongs to us. Some gritty performance from the lads. This team deserves the win in this game. Congratulations boys. You make us proud. --West Indies great Viv Richards

Great characters shown in this win by some key players.. congratulations to coach, capt and team. --West Indies legend Courtney Walsh

Good all-round performances by players from both teams. Jermaine Blackwood played a crucial knock in a tense situation to see @windiescricket through. An important win which has set up the series perfectly. --India great Sachin Tendulkar

A great week of Test cricket. For the West Indies to have come over to play is remarkable in these times... For them to have played so well & won is incredible. I don't even think England fans will be too disappointed... bloody love Test cricket. --Former England captain Michael Vaughan

What a Test match to Herald the return of cricket. Steely determination from @windiescricket both @benstokes38 and Jason Holder have shown themselves to be exemplary leaders. --Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara

Wow @windiescricket... What a win. Top display of Test cricket. --India Captain Virat Kohli

The return of cricket at the Ageas Bowl was marked by performances of two players who could have initially been left out. West Indies pacer Shannon Gabriel, the player-of-the-match for his nine for 137, was originally named only as a traveling reserve. Jermaine Blackwood, who came within five runs of becoming the first centurion in the post-pandemic era, might not have played had fellow batsmen Darren Bravo and Shimron Hetmyer not opted out due to coronavirus fears. England all-rounder Ben Stokes, who was chosen to lead the side in absence of regular skipper Joe Root, had a decent outing but was left dejected following his side's four-wicket defeat.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'What a game of cricket'

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

When Shannon Gabriel walked off the field after his five-for on the fifth and final day of the Southampton Test, helping bowl England out for 313 for a chase of 200 for the Windies, there was no cheering crowd to give him an apt send-off back to the dressing room.

It was one of those rare moments where the absence of a packed crowd was felt in what was a riveting and indeed 'classic' Test as cricket began its adagio in the most palpable manner amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

The remainder of the Test match had almost remained serene, the quiet adding to the atmosphere of what was happening in the middle -- an atmosphere fit for Tests. The themes of the match converged on that dialogue of what a classic really felt like, from the beginning to the end. Even during these difficult times, cricket brought relief to so many that were waiting at home to watch some live action. In the commentary box, Michael Holding, who had set the tone for one of the themes of this Test series with his powerful and uplifting statement on 'Black Lives Matters', along with Nasser Hussain, reminisced on the past during the quiet but intense hours, socially distanced as was appropriate during a pandemic.

The statistician, an ever-present figure in the commentary box, was working from home, Holding informed, and yet cricket's new normal did not fail to deliver. Remote-controlled Spidercam and Batcam, roaming the outfield, provided the best footages to the audience sitting at home.

The element of the 'shifting of balance', that tug-of-war with the game swaying from one side to the other from session to session reminded of great matches from the past. West Indies' positivity had added lustre and defined how the rest of the series



effect and will affect the rest of the world too. "Definitely the bowlers are being hampered. We could see with the way they bowled, that if there was swing, the bowlers would be so much more devastating. But I feel the batsmen did not play to their full potential either," Fahim said.

After the few initial overs, the swing was not evident. Fahim concurred that Windies had used the seam well. "They used the seam for off-the-wicket movement. There was not much swing off the air and the pacers continuously changed their angles.

- West Indies are the only visiting Test team in the 21st century to chase down 200 or more runs twice on English soil.
- The Caribbean side became only the second team to successfully chase a target of 100-plus runs when top four batsmen failed to reach double-figures. Their top four managed to score 4, 8*, 9, and 0 respectively against England at The Ageas Bowl. Coincidentally, in 1902 the English had experienced the same when they defeated Australia while chasing 263 at The Oval.
- Jason Holder, top-ranked ICC Test all-rounder, has won four of his six Tests as captain against England.
- Since 2015, West Indies now have won five of the ten Tests against England. In the meantime, they have managed only seven wins in 34 matches combined against all other teams.



The Ageas Bowl will be recalled as the first stadium to have hosted a Test in a bio-secure environment following the coronavirus standstill.

PHOTO: TWITTER

'One of our best victories'

AGENCIES

West Indies skipper Jason Holder has described his side's stunning four-wicket win over England in the opening Test of the three-match series in Southampton as 'one of the best victories' of the Caribbean side as a group.

"One of our best victories. Yesterday (Day-4) was the best day I had in Test cricket. All the bowlers toiled hard yesterday, and it was a hard-fought day of Test cricket. I don't think any team knew. We had been sat at home doing nothing. We had time to prepare, but you never know. John took a blow today, but hopefully he will come through. We knew what was at stake yesterday evening," said Holder during post-match presentation ceremony.

Holder praised the "massive, massive heart" of Shannon Gabriel following the tourists' on Sunday.

Fast bowler Gabriel was named man-of-the-match after taking combined figures of nine wickets for 137 runs as international cricket returned from lockdown.

will go as well, with England now looking to turn things around after a four-wicket defeat at Ageas bowl.

"It didn't get into our minds that there were no noise from crowd because the focus was so much on the game," Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, a mentor to many of the Bangladesh national team stars, told The Daily Star when asked to talk about the game.

For many neutral fans, Windies are the team to support and their positivity shone through. "Their captain [Jason Holder]

handed things very coolly. He led the team very well," Fahim reiterated.

"The excitement of the Test match and what was happening, we couldn't tell till the last day of the match. When West Indies lost three wickets, it appeared that England will make a comeback and up to that point the match was in the balance. It remained so before Windies reached 140-odd mark but there was an intense period of cricket before that. West Indies have shown their character."

The saliva ban has also come into

But batsmen are still lacking in form," he opined.

Jermaine Blackwood, though, showed his resolve against the likes of James Anderson, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood. Edgy at the beginning, he gradually timed himself to a match-winning 95 with England pacers breathing fire, nearly crushing the hope of Windies win during that first session when the visitors were three down for 27.

After the game, English actor Hugh Laurie tweeted: "What a game of cricket. It doesn't solve anything, cure anything, make anything go away -- but what a game of cricket."



Neymar embraces Kylian Embappe as Mauro Icardi joins them in celebration during Paris Saint-Germain's 9-0 win over second division side Le Havre in a friendly match on Sunday. Played in front of 5000 people, it saw the biggest crowd for a match in one of Europe's 'Big Five' football nations since early March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

City's ban overturned

AFP, LAUSANNE

Manchester City will be free to play Champions League football next season after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) lifted a two-season ban from European competitions imposed by UEFA on Monday.

An initial fine of 30 million euro was also reduced to 10 million euros on appeal. City were accused of deliberately inflating the value of income from sponsors with links to the Abu Dhabi United Group, also owned by City owner Sheikh Mansour, to avoid falling foul of financial fair play (FFP) regulations between 2012 and 2016.

Domingo holds online meeting with Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh cricket team's head coach Russell Domingo yesterday had a virtual meeting with a 35-member preliminary squad and rest of the coaching staff as part of his continuous communication with the cricketers regarding their mental and physical tasks during the coronavirus pandemic.

"This was not the first time that Russell Domingo had a virtual meeting with the cricketers. He is guiding the cricketers through these meetings. We are waiting for the situation to improve as everything depends on it. We are eager to return to the field," BCB's cricket operations committee chairman Akram Khan said. The meetings between the coach and the players are

sometimes held with all the players together while at other times held with batting groups or bowling groups in isolation.

It was learnt that there were occasions when discussions over the possible resumption of training camp were discussed in the meeting but as there is no scheduled international fixture for the national team in near future, the plan to resume training did not see light.

"We often discuss of possible resumption of the training camp but going to the field without an aim doesn't make sense. Many of our bilateral series got postponed and then the Asia Cup T20 in September got cancelled. At this point we do not know when the Dhaka League will resume or if ICC World T20 will be held," said an experienced member of the Bangladesh team requesting anonymity.



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10m kids may never return to school

Warns Save the Children citing measures to contain Covid-19

AFP, London

The coronavirus pandemic has caused an "unprecedented education emergency" with up to 9.7 million children affected by school closures at risk of never going back to class, Save the Children warned yesterday.

The British charity cited Unesco data showing that in April, 1.6 billion young people were shut out of school and university due to measures to contain Covid-19 -- about 90 percent of the world's entire student population.

"For the first time in human history, an entire generation of children globally have had their education disrupted," it said in a new report, Save our Education.

It said the economic fall-out of the crisis could force an extra 90 to 117 million children into poverty, with a knock-on effect on school admissions.

With many young people required to work or girls forced into early marriage to support their families, this could see between seven and 9.7 million children dropping out of school permanently.

At the same time, the charity warned the crisis could leave a shortfall of \$77 billion in education budgets in low and middle income countries by the end of 2021.

"Around 10 million children may never return to school -- this is an unprecedented education emergency and governments must urgently invest in learning," Save the Children chief executive Inger Ashing said.

"Instead we are at risk of unparalleled budget cuts

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Md Ohidullah, 65, flashing the victory sign after being released from the Covid-19 unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. The senior citizen from Laxmipur's Ramganj upazila was admitted to the hospital 12 days ago after he tested positive for the virus. Elderly people are at greater risk of developing severe symptoms of Covid-19.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Flood takes a turn for worse

STAR REPORT

The overall flood situation has taken a serious turn in many districts of the country's north and north-eastern regions, causing immense sufferings to people.

A total of 14 rivers were flowing above the danger level yesterday, according to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

The Water Development Board issued a red alert in Dowani area of the Teesta Barrage in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila on Sunday night.

Hundreds of families living in the Teesta Barrage area were evacuated, said Hafizul Islam, sub-divisional engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) at Teesta Barrage.

There was an abnormal rise in the water level of the Teesta, Dharla, Brahmaputra and a few other adjoining rivers in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram yesterday. The flood situation has worsened greatly in the two districts.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Crisis may get 'worse and worse and worse'

Says WHO chief, warns that many countries heading in wrong direction

REUTERS, Geneva

The coronavirus pandemic raging around the globe will worsen if countries fail to adhere to strict healthcare precautions, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned yesterday.

"Let me be blunt, too many countries are headed in the wrong direction, the virus remains public enemy number one," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing from the UN agency's headquarters in Geneva.

"If basics are not followed, the only way this pandemic is going to go - it is going to get worse and worse and worse."

Global infections stand at 13 million, according to a Reuters tally, with more than half a million deaths.

Tedros, whose leadership has been heavily criticised by US President Donald Trump, said that of 230,000 new cases on Sunday, 80% were from 10 nations, and 50% from just two countries.

The United States and Brazil are the countries worst hit.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

"Bhutto bluffed me, Tikka betrayed"

July 14, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA LAMENTS

The deposed Pakistani president Gen Yahya Khan has blamed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and several army generals including Gen Tikka Khan for the genocide and massacre in Bangladesh and the defeat of the Pakistani military adventure against India. Testifying before the high-powered commission Gen Yahya charged Bhutto of conspiring with army generals including Gen Tikka Khan, Gen Gul Hasan and Air Marshal Rahim Khan to overthrow him and to keep him in the dark about the real intent of both the USA and China in the event of a war between Pakistan and India. The commission has been appointed by ZA Bhutto to investigate the causes that led to Pakistani military debacle.

CABINET MEETS

The cabinet today meets for about two and half hours. The cabinet meeting presided over by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is understood to have discussed several pressing issues including food distribution and law and order.

SEND BACK STRANDED BANGALEES

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today asks the Pakistani leadership to show true statesmanship by releasing the stranded Bangalees and says, "This will help pacify the simmering disconcert in Pakistan also."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Bogura-1, Jashore-6 go to polls today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two parliamentary constituencies -- Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 -- go to by-elections today amid coronavirus scare as locals say the campaigns of only ruling Awami League candidates were visible.

The Election Commission said they were compelled to hold the polls as it was needed to fulfill the constitutional obligation of filling the vacant seat of a member of parliament within 180 days.

EC Senior Secretary Md Alamgir yesterday told The Daily Star that they completed all formalities and preparations for holding the by-polls.

Health guidelines and social distancing directives would be strictly maintained during the election to stem the spread of coronavirus, he said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

UK using drones to send test kits



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The UK's new Space Agency funding will be used to support drones that deliver coronavirus testing kits to a Scottish island.

Skyports, the company behind the drones, started a two-week trial in May with NHS Highland, which serves a group of islands off the west coast of Scotland.

The technology was able to cut delivery times between Oban and the Isle of Mull to around 15 minutes, instead of going via road and taking a 45-minute ferry crossing.

An initial £2.6 million was made available by the UK Space Agency and European Space Agency (ESA) to find and support space-enabled technologies and services that can support the NHS response to coronavirus.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

CMP DC Mizanur dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police Detective Branch died of Covid-19 while being treated at Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital in the capital early yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman was admitted to the hospital on June 28.

He died at the incentive care unit of the hospital around 3:40am.

Five policemen of CMP

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JULY 14

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

11 die after showing Covid-19 symptoms

STAR REPORT

At least 11 people died after showing Covid-19 symptoms in Cumilla and Satkhira in the last two days.

Eight of them breathed their last at Cumilla Medical College Hospital.

According to the hospital authorities, three died in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday and five others from 8:00am Saturday to 8:00am Sunday.

The victims, residents of different parts of the district, were admitted to the hospital with fever, cold, and breathing difficulties. They were aged between 22 and 85, said Dr Mojibur Rahman, director of the hospital.

With the eight, 213 people have so far died at the hospital. Of them, 177 breathed their last with coronavirus symptoms and 36 after they tested Covid-19 positive since April.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Trading of boats going on in full swing at the traditional floating market at Atghor Kuriana canal in Pirojpur's Nesarabad (previously known as Swarupkathi) upazila. Prices range from Tk 1,500 to Tk 6,000 depending on the size of boats. The monsoon is the peak season for boat trade. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Global record for daily virus cases

Says WHO as S Africa re-imposes nationwide curfew; Sri Lanka closes schools again

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization reported a record increase in global coronavirus cases on Sunday, with the total rising by 230,370 in 24 hours as South Africa re-imposed a nationwide curfew and Sri Lanka ordered schools to shut again following a surge in new cases.

The biggest increases were from the United States, Brazil, India and South Africa, according to a daily report. The previous WHO record for new cases was 228,102 on July 10. Deaths remained steady at about 5,000 a day.

Latin America surged past the US and Canada to become the world's second worst-hit region for virus deaths yesterday as a Spanish court blocked a move to lock down some 200,000 people.

Since the start of July, nearly 2.5 million new infections have been detected across the globe, with the number of cases doubling over the past six weeks, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Hong Kong re-imposed social distancing measures yesterday to combat a sudden spike in infections, banning more than four people from gathering in public, shuttering some businesses and restricting restaurants from catering to evening diners.

Although life in parts of Europe has been returning to some semblance of normality, authorities across the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1